

PCT

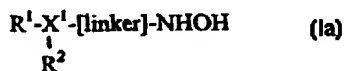
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification<sup>6</sup> : C07C 259/04, 259/06, 259/08, 259/10, C07K 5/04, C07D 209/44, 209/48, 217/22, 217/24, 217/14, 217/16, A61K 38/06, 38/05, 38/12, 31/16, 31/165, 31/38</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 98/55449</b>  (43) International Publication Date: 10 December 1998 (10.12.98)</p>
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU98/00431  (22) International Filing Date: 5 June 1998 (05.06.98)  (30) Priority Data: PO 7219 6 June 1997 (06.06.97) AU  (71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND [AU/AU]; Brisbane, QLD 4072 (AU). THE QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH [AU/AU]; The Bancroft Centre, Brisbane, QLD 4029 (AU).  (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): PARSONS, Peter, Gordon [AU/AU]; 317 Swann Road, St. Lucia, QLD 4067 (AU). FAIRLIE, David [AU/AU]; 73 Trevallyn Drive, Springwood, QLD 4127 (AU).  (74) Agent: GRIFFITH HACK; 509 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, VIC 3004 (AU).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AU, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).  Published With international search report.</p>

(54) Title: HYDROXAMIC ACID COMPOUNDS HAVING ANTICANCER AND ANTI-PARASITIC PROPERTIES



(57) Abstract

The invention provides a hydroxamate or hydroxamic acid compound of general formula (1a) or (1b): HONH-[linker]-X<sup>1</sup>R<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup> or (1c): R<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup>X<sup>1</sup>-[linker]-X<sup>1</sup>R<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup>, in which X<sup>1</sup> is a polar group selected from the group consisting of -C=O; -COR<sup>1</sup>; -CF<sub>2</sub>; -CNH<sub>2</sub>; -CNR<sup>1</sup>; -SO<sub>2</sub>-; -P(O)(OH)-; -C=S; -CSR<sup>1</sup>; -C-COR<sup>1</sup>; -C-CONR<sup>1</sup>R<sup>2</sup> and -C-CH<sub>2</sub>OH; R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are the same or different, and each is independently selected from the group consisting of H; OH; NH<sub>2</sub>; NHOH; substituted or unsubstituted, branched or unbranched alkyl, alkenyl, alkylamino, alkoxy or arylalkoxy; substituted or unsubstituted aryl, aryloxy or pyridino; substituted or unsubstituted arylamino, piperidino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylamino, pyridineamino, 9-purine-6-amine, and thiazoleamino; or either R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is absent; and the linker is a group having a backbone of 5 to 9 atoms, which may comprise 1, 2 or 3 amino acids, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester or derivative thereof. The compounds have the ability to selectively prevent the growth of a variety of human tumour cell types, without affecting growth of normal cells. The compounds of the invention also inhibit the growth of protozoan parasites.

**FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY**

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakistan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LJ	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

- 1 -

## HYDROXAMIC ACID COMPOUNDS HAVING ANTICANCER AND ANTI-PARASITIC PROPERTIES

This invention relates to compounds which have anti-tumour and anti-parasite activity. The compounds are  
5 selectively cytotoxic against tumour cells without killing normal cell types, and can be used either alone or in combination with other anti-cancer agents. In particular, the invention relates to nitrogen-containing compounds, structurally related compounds, and derivatives thereof,  
10 which are selectively cytotoxic against tumour cells. The compounds of the invention characteristically inhibit deacetylation of histones and modify gene expression. The invention also provides pharmaceutical and/or veterinary compositions, and methods of treatment of cancer, of  
15 hyperplastic or dysplastic conditions such as psoriasis, leukoplakia, and solar keratosis, and of parasite infections, utilising the compounds of the invention. In addition, the invention provides methods for identifying particularly active compounds and for identifying patients  
20 likely to benefit from treatment with compounds of the invention.

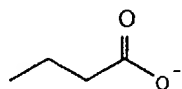
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Cancer is one of the major causes of morbidity  
25 and mortality in modern society. Chemotherapy against cancer traditionally involves the use of cytotoxic agents such as anti-metabolites or DNA-targeting drugs that indiscriminately kill normal cells as well as tumour cells. These agents therefore cause serious side effects that are  
30 usually dose-limiting. Most such drugs are also ineffective or poorly effective against solid tumours. Thus new antitumour agents based on alternative mechanisms of action are needed to overcome these problems.

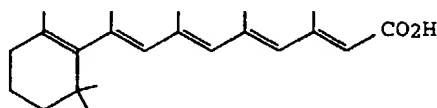
Cancer results from a series of genetic changes  
35 which usurp normal cellular mechanisms that control growth and morphology. Genetic mutation or loss has been associated with cellular transformation and cancer (Rueben

- 2 -

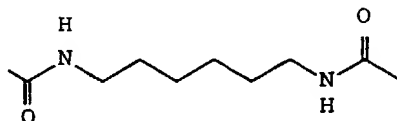
et al, 1976). One alternative method which may enable more selective targeting of tumour cells is conversion of cancerous cells to a non-proliferating phenotype through changes in gene expression. Studies of such reversion of oncogenically transformed cells to morphologically non-proliferating cells can provide valuable clues to aspects of the cell cycle which are still not fully understood. A number of compounds known to differentiate tumour cells, eg. butyrate (1), retinoic acid (2), and N,N'-hexamethylene-bis-acetamide (HMBA; 3) (Marks et al, 1989) have undergone clinical trials, but all have suffered from problems of low potency, lack of selectivity, reversible differentiation or resistance.



1



2



3

For example, HMBA has been reported to induce differentiation *in vitro* in many types of neoplastic (Young et al, 1988) and epithelial cell lines (Andreef et al, 1988) and embryonic cells (Egorin et al 1987). It has induced remissions in myelodysplastic syndrome and acute myeloblastic leukemia (Breslow et al, 1991), but suffers in

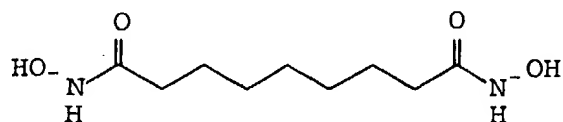
- 3 -

vivo from rapid degradation through deacetylation, and causes side effects such as thrombocytopaenia, neurotoxicity and acidosis (Marks *et al*, 1994).

In murine erythroleukaemic cells, HMBA induces arrest in G1, promotes translocation of protein kinase C (PKC) from the cytosol to the membrane, decreases c-myc, c-myc and p53 protein levels, and increases c-fos mRNA. A transient increase in hypophosphorylated retinoblastoma protein pRB was found 12 hr after treatment, followed by enhanced production of the hyperphosphorylated form ppRB during the next 2-3 days (Richon *et al*, 1992; Kiyokawa *et al*, 1994). A recently reported group of structurally-related but more potent differentiating agents induces differentiation in murine erythroleukaemic cell lines, human promyelocytic cells (HL-60), and human colon carcinoma cells (Breslow *et al*, 1991).

These workers have reported a family of compounds able to induce terminal differentiation (International Patent Applications No. PCT/US92/08454, published as No. WO 93/07148; No. PCT/US95/06554, published as WO 95/31977). The compounds, some of which are hydroxamates, are of general formula  $R_1.CO.(CH_2)_n.CO.R_2$ , in which n is 4 to 8, and  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  may be the same or different, and are represented by a wide variety of substituents.

Azelaic bishydroxamic acid (ABHA; 4) and some of its analogues were up to 100-fold more active than HMBA.



4

A preferred compound is ABHA (4). The compounds are stated to induce terminal differentiation of neoplastic cells and thereby to inhibit proliferation of these cells,

- 4 -

but the activity requires prolonged contact of the compounds with the cells, preferably for at least 4 to 5 days. Activity against murine erythroleukaemia cells and acute promyelocytic leukaemia cells was observed in the range 1 to 2,500  $\mu\text{M}$  (80 compounds tested, with one being inactive) and the range 1 to 20  $\mu\text{M}$  (16 compounds tested) respectively. There is no disclosure or suggestion that any of the compounds, including ABHA, exerts selective toxicity against tumour cells, as distinct from normal cells. Nor is there any suggestion in the prior art that these compounds might have any activity against parasites.

We have now found that some of these compounds induce hyperacetylation of histone H4 when mammalian cells are treated in culture. Subsequent to the priority date of this application, this was independently confirmed (Richon *et al*, 1998). The histone deacetylase inhibitor trichostatin (TSA) has been proposed as a tumour-selective agent (Beppu *et al*, U.S. Patent No. 4,690,918, filed January 24, 1986), on the basis of modest *in vitro* selectivity against the short-term proliferation of SV40-transformed mouse fibroblasts compared with untransformed fibroblasts (see Table 3 in Beppu *et al*). This is not a satisfactory proof of concept for treatment of human cancer, because

- (a) human cells were not used,
- (b) SV40-transformed cells are not tumour cells and generally do not form tumours in animals,
- (c) SV40 transformation of human fibroblasts can frequently produce sensitivity to alkylating agents which have no clinical value because of general lack of selectivity for tumour cells, and
- (d) the 3-day observation period with continuous drug exposure was insufficient to show that the proliferation of the SV40-transformed cells was irreversibly inhibited.

Furthermore, we have shown in this application that TSA, although selectively toxic to some human tumour cells

in culture, is metabolised by cultured cells, and is inactive against human tumour cells *in vivo*. We have also shown that HC-toxin, a cyclic peptide proposed for the treatment of malaria (Darkin-Rattray et al, 1996), has properties similar to TSA, ie. it is tumour-selective *in vitro*, but is inactivated by cultured cells and lacks antitumour activity *in vivo*, even when used at high doses.

Melanocytes and melanoma cells express a range of differentiation markers related to pigment synthesis, including tyrosinase, HMB-45, melanin and the tyrosinase-related protein-1 (TRP-1) (Takahashi and Parsons, 1990; Sturm et al, 1994). During a comparison of the effects of azelaic acid, HMBA and the nine-carbon derivative ABHA on these markers we have now found, in contrast to the work of Breslow et al (1991), that in fact ABHA has poor activity as a differentiating agent with respect to pigmentation, which is the major differentiation pathway in melanocytic cells, and indeed that ABHA in some respects may act as a de-differentiating agent. We have also surprisingly found that ABHA was unusual, in being cytotoxic for transformed cells but not for normal cells, while activating the transcription of certain genes involved in signal transduction.

We have now identified a family of compounds which are selectively toxic against cell lines derived from over seven different human solid tumours, including a drug-resistant melanoma cell line and a lymphoid neoplasm. Typically these compounds do not have inhibitory activity against matrix metalloproteases. Particularly preferred compounds of the invention have been shown to be active *in vivo* against xenografts of the drug-resistant melanoma cell line in nude mice. It is particularly striking that the compounds of the invention are active against melanoma, ovarian cancer, and a range of other neoplasms which respond poorly to currently-available therapies. We have also demonstrated that compounds of the invention are

- 6 -

active against parasitic organisms, including drug-resistant strains of *Giardia* and *Plasmodium*.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5           This invention relates to compounds having the ability to selectively prevent the growth of a variety of human tumour cell types, without affecting the growth of normal human cells. In particular, the invention relates to nitrogen-containing compounds, structurally-related  
10           compounds, and derivatives thereof. In one preferred embodiment, the compounds are hydroxamate or bishydroxamate compounds or derivatives thereof. In another preferred embodiment the compounds are cyclic peptides. The compounds of the invention are selectively cytotoxic to  
15           human tumour cells both in cell culture, and in animal models *in vivo*. For the purposes of this specification, the expression "selectively cytotoxic to tumour cells" is to be understood to mean that proliferation of tumour cells *in vitro* is irreversibly inhibited, but normal cells are  
20           still able to proliferate, when exposed to a compound of the invention under comparable conditions.

          In a first aspect, the invention provides a method of treatment of cancer, comprising the step of administration of an effective amount of a compound of the  
25           invention to a mammal in need of such treatment, said compound having selective cytotoxicity for neoplastic cells compared to normal cells, and having minimal or absent ability to induce differentiation in neoplastic cells.

          Preferably the compound is selected from the  
30           group consisting of hydroxamates, bishydroxamates, or derivatives thereof, and cyclic peptides.

          Typically the compound has the ability to inhibit deacetylation of histones.

          Preferably the compound also enhances the *SphI*-  
35           containing promoter and/or the zinc-induced activity of the metallothionein Ia promoter.



- 7 -

Preferably the compound is selectively toxic to cells that express low levels of full length RbAp48.

More preferably the compound is not ABHA.

Typically, compounds of the invention either have  
5 no effect on, or down-regulate, expression of classical markers for differentiation in human melanoma cells. For example, TRP1 is down-regulated, while HMB-45 and tyrosinase are not significantly affected.

It will be clearly understood that the method of  
10 the invention may be used in conjunction with one or more other anti-cancer therapies, such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy. In particular, it is contemplated that the method of the invention may be used in conjunction with one or more antiproliferative agents, such as cytosine  
15 arabinoside, 5-fluorouracil, , methotrexate, chlorodeoxyadenosine, etoposide, taxol (paclitaxel), and the like. The other treatment may be administered either concurrently, prophylactically or following the compound of the invention.

20 While it is contemplated that the compounds of the invention are useful for treatment of all types of cancer, including leukaemias and lymphomas, it is considered that these compounds will be particularly advantageous in the treatment of solid tumours, such as  
25 melanoma and other skin cancers, ovarian cancer, cervical cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, endometrial cancer, lung cancer, gastric cancer, colon cancer and the like.

Similarly, while the method of the invention is particularly contemplated for treatment of human cancer, it  
30 is also applicable to veterinary treatment. Thus the mammal may be a human, or may be a domestic, companion or zoo mammal, including but not limited to cattle, horses, sheep, goats, deer, cats, dogs, and large felids.

Preferably the compound is selectively toxic for  
35 at least one type of tumour cell, ie. the compound exerts a toxic or antiproliferative effect against the tumour cell but not against normal cells.

- 8 -

All the compounds of the invention have one or more of the following activities:

- a) inhibition of growth in cell culture of at least one of the following human tumour cell lines:  
5 melanoma MM418cl, cervical HeLa, melanoma A2058, ovarian JAM, and lymphoma Mutu;
- b) inhibition of growth in cell culture of transformed keratinocytes (HaCat) and melanocytes (Mel-SV);
- c) inhibition of growth *in vivo* of human  
10 tumour cells (eg. melanoma MM96L) in xenografted nude mice;
- d) inhibition of histone deacetylase, as measured by extent of hyperacetylation of histones;
- e) induction of differences in protein  
expression by human tumour cells compared to normal human  
15 cells;
- f) selective killing of tumour cells in (a) without killing normal cells;
- g) blocking of cell cycle progression of some sensitive tumour cells in the G1/S phase;
- 20 h) induction of apoptosis in tumour cells; and
- i) inhibition of DNA synthesis in normal but not in tumour cells.

Typically the compounds do not:

- 25 a) kill normal human cells, eg. melanocytes, neonatal foreskin fibroblasts (NFF), or peripheral blood lymphocytes, at dosages effective for killing human tumour cells;
- b) significantly inhibit metalloproteinases  
30 known to be important for tissue maintenance and protein regulation, at a  $K_i$  equal to or less than 1  $\mu\text{M}$ ;
- c) show overt signs of toxicity in animal models;
- d) block the cell cycle of some drug-sensitive  
35 tumour cells at G<sub>2</sub>/M phase.

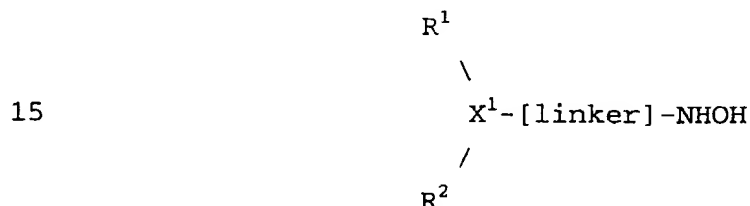
The compounds of the invention, including ABHA, are effective in killing transformed keratinocytes.

- 9 -

Therefore in a second aspect, the invention provides a method of treatment of a hyperplastic or dysplastic condition, comprising the step of administering an effective amount of a compound as defined above or of ABHA  
 5 to a subject in need of such treatment.

Preferably the condition is a keratinous hyperplasia, such as psoriasis, leukoplakia or solar keratosis.

In a third aspect, the invention provides a  
 10 hydroxamate or hydroxamic acid compound of general formula Ia or Ib or Ic,



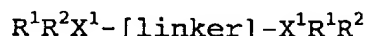
Ia

20



Ib

25



Ic

in which  $X^1$  is a polar group selected from the  
 30 group consisting of  $-\text{C}=\text{O}$ ;  $-\text{COR}^1$ ;  $-\text{CF}_2$ ;  $-\text{CNH}_2$ ;  $-\text{CNR}^1$ ;  $-\text{SO}_2-$ ;  $-\text{P}(\text{O})(\text{OH})-$ ;  $-\text{C}=\text{S}$ ;  $-\text{CSR}^1$ ;  $-\text{C}-\text{COR}^1$ ;  $-\text{C}-\text{CONR}^1 R^2$  and  $-\text{C}-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ ; or either  $R^1$  or  $R^2$  is absent;

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  are the same or different, and each is independently selected from the group consisting of H; OH;  
 35  $\text{NH}_2$ ;  $\text{NHOH}$ ; substituted or unsubstituted, branched or unbranched alkyl, alkenyl, alkylamino, alkyloxy or arylalkyloxy; substituted or unsubstituted aryl, aryloxy or

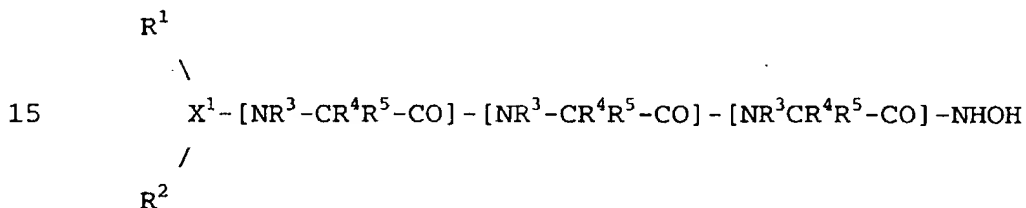
- 10 -

pyridino; substituted or unsubstituted arylamino,  
piperidino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylamino, pyridineamino,  
9-purine-6-amine, and thiazoleamino; and

the linker is a group having a backbone of 5 to 9  
5 atoms, which may comprise 1, 2 or 3 amino acids,  
or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, ester or  
derivative thereof.

In Formula Ic the two  $X^1$  groups are independently  
selected from the listed groups.

10 Thus in one embodiment the compound is of  
formula II:



## II

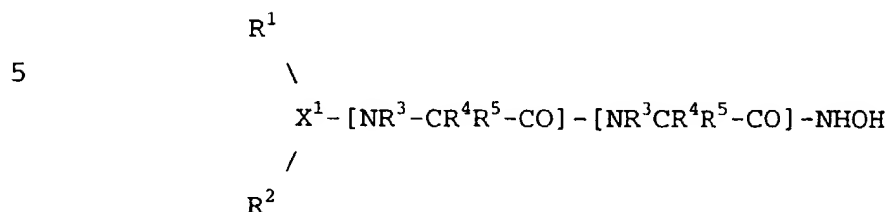
20 in which  $R^3$  is as defined above for  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ , and  
 $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are the same or different, and is each  
independently selected from H, alkyl, aryl or a side-chain  
of a common or uncommon amino acid.

For the purposes of this specification, a  
25 "common" amino acid is a L-amino acid selected from the  
group consisting of glycine, leucine, isoleucine, valine,  
alanine, phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan, aspartate,  
asparagine, glutamate, glutamine, cysteine, methionine,  
arginine, lysine, proline, serine, threonine and histidine.

30 An "uncommon" amino acid includes, but is not  
restricted to, D-amino acids, homo-amino acids, N-alkyl  
amino acids, dehydroamino acids, aromatic amino acids  
(other than phenylalanine, tyrosine and tryptophan),  
ortho-, meta- or para-aminobenzoic acid, ornithine,  
35 citrulline, norleucine,  $\gamma$ -glutamic acid, aminobutyric acid  
and  $\alpha, \alpha$ -disubstituted amino acids.

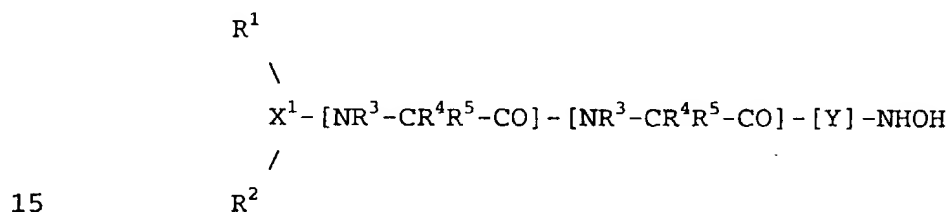
- 11 -

In another embodiment, the linker comprises two amino acids, and the compound is of formula IIIa or IIIb:



IIIa

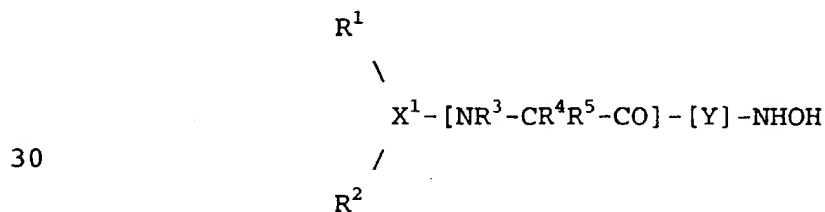
10



IIIb

in which  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are as defined above,  
 and Y is  $-CH=CH_2-CO$ ;  $-C(alkyl)=C(H \text{ or } alkyl)_2$ ;  
 20  $-C_6H_4-CO$ ;  $-CH(alkyl)-CH(alkyl)-CO$ ;  $-NR^6CH_2CH_2CO$ ;  
 $-NR^6C(alkyl)-C(H \text{ or } alkyl)-CO$ ; or  $-NR^6-CH_6H_4-CO$ , where  $R^6$   
 is as defined above for  $R^1$  and  $R^2$ , and alkyl is a linear or  
 branched chain aliphatic group.

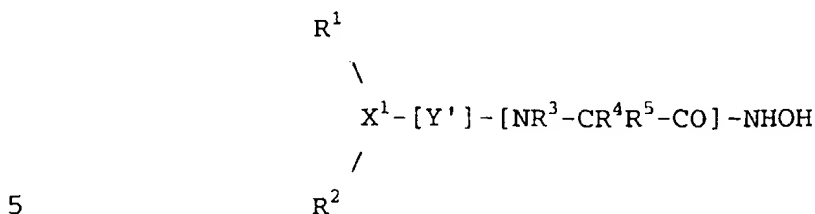
In a third embodiment, the linker comprises one  
 25 amino acid, and the compound is of general formula IVa,



IVa

in which Y is as defined above,  
 35 or formula IVb,

- 12 -



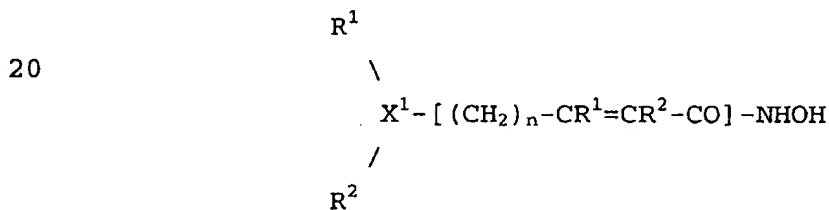
5

IVb

in which Y' is  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2-\text{CO}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n$ , where n is an integer from 1 to 6;  $-(\text{CH}_2)_3$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2)_4$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CO}-$ ;  
 10  $-(\text{CH}_2)_3-\text{CO}$ ;  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ;  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$ ;  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4$ ;  
 $-\text{CH}(\text{alkyl})-\text{CH}(\text{alkyl})$ ;  $-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{CO}$ ;  $-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CO}$ ;  
 $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{CO}$ ; or  $-\text{CH}(\text{alkyl})-\text{CH}(\text{alkyl})\text{CO}$ .

In both formulae IVa and IVb,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are as defined above.

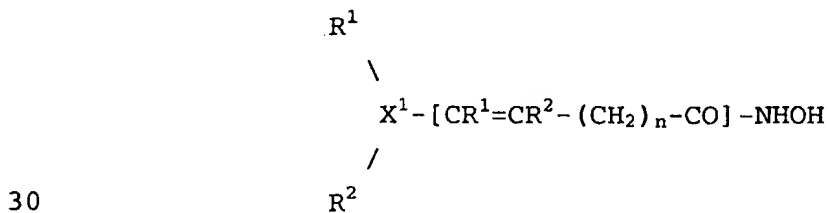
15 In another embodiment, the linker comprises 1, 2 or 3 double bonds, and the compound is of the formula Va, Vb, Vc, Vd Ve, Vf or Vg,



20

Va

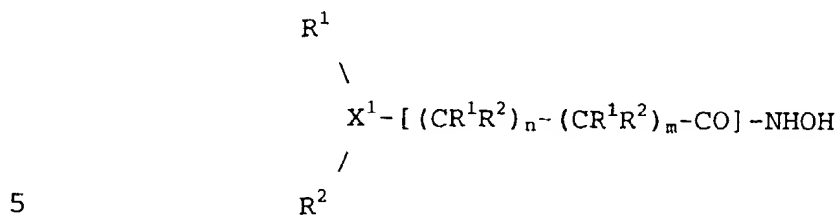
25



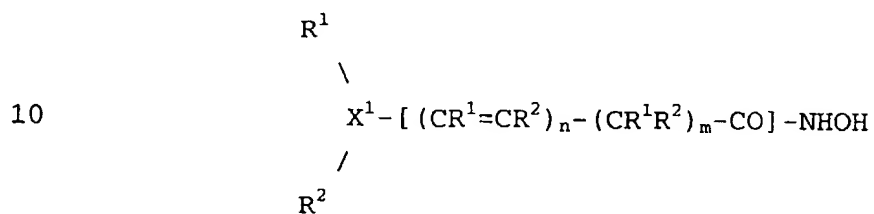
30

Vb

- 13 -

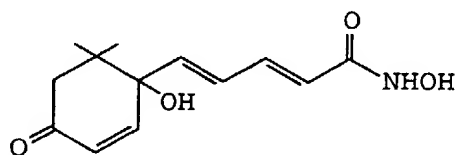


Vc



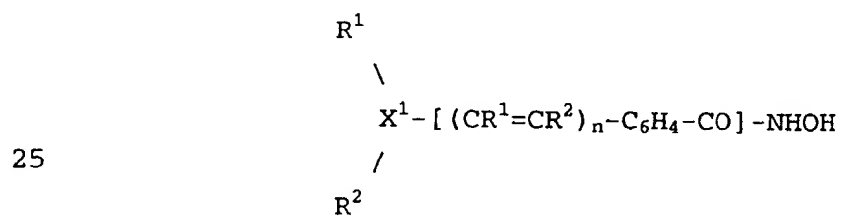
Vd

15



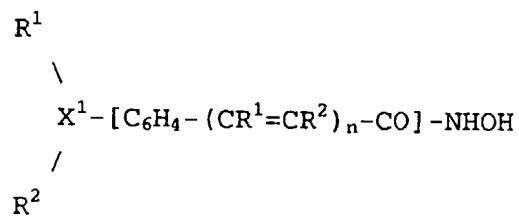
Ve

20



Vf

30



Vg

- 14 -

in which  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  may be the same or different,  
and are as defined above;

where each of  $n$  and  $m$  is independently an integer  
5 from 1 to 6,

and in which the  $C_6H_4$  group is an aromatic ring,  
optionally substituted at the ortho-, meta- or para-  
position with a substituent selected from the group  
consisting of  $NO_2$ ,  $NH_2$ ,  $NMe_2$ ,  $Cl$ ,  $F$ ,  $SO_2NH_2$ ,  $Me$  and alkyl.

10 Preferably each of  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  is independently  $H$ ,  
alkyl or aryl,

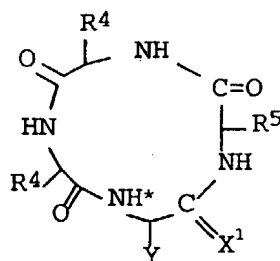
In an alternative embodiment, the polar group  $X^1$   
forms part of a cyclic tetrapeptide of formula VI,

15 
$$\text{cyclo}[(CX^1-CHY-NH)(COCHR^4NH)_3]$$

VI

for example

20



VII

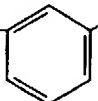
25 in which each of  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are the same or  
different, and are as defined above, or may be thioproline,  
hydroxyproline, pipecolic acid, or decahydroisoquinoline;

$X^1$  and  $Y$  are as defined above, or  $Y$  may be  
 $(CH_2)_5COMe$ ,  $(CH_2)_4COMe$ ,  $(CH_2)_5CO$ -alkyl,  $(CH_2)_5CO$ -aryl, or  
30  $(CH_2)_5CO-NR^3R^6$ , wherein  $R^3$  and  $R^6$  are the same or different,  
and are as defined above.



- 15 -

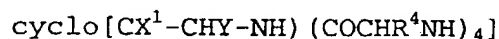
Preferably each of  $R^3$  and  $R^6$  is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, aryl,  $(CH_2)_5CHO$ ,

$CH=CH-$    $-COMe$ ; and  $CH=CH-CH=CH-CH_2-COMe$ ; and one or

more of the four amino acids is optionally N-alkylated with  
5 an aliphatic alkyl group.

The stereochemical configuration at the position marked by \* may be R or S (L or D).

In another alternative embodiment, the polar group  $X^1$  forms part of a cyclic pentapeptide, and the  
10 compound is of formula VIII,



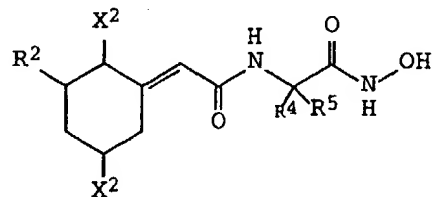
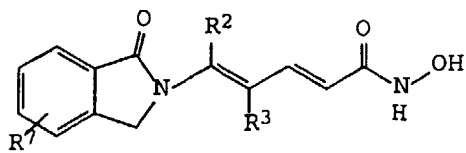
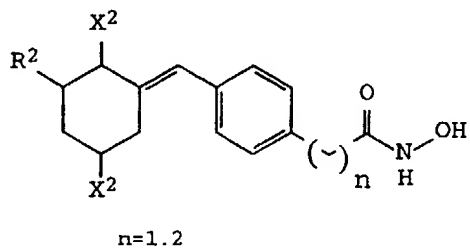
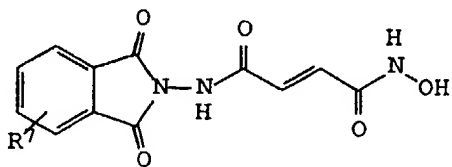
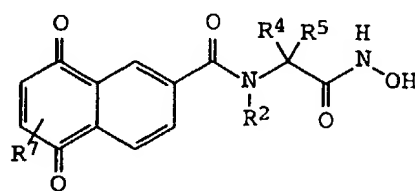
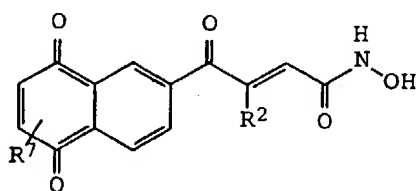
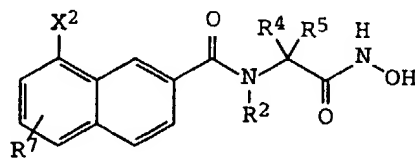
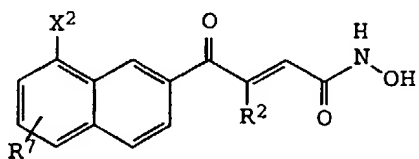
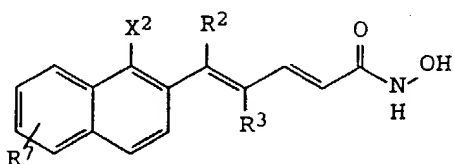
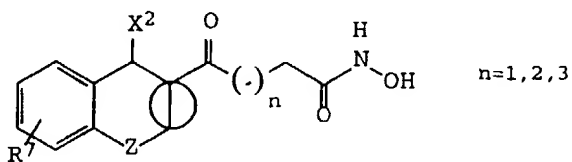
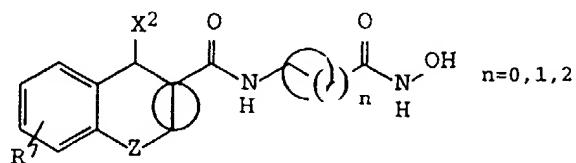
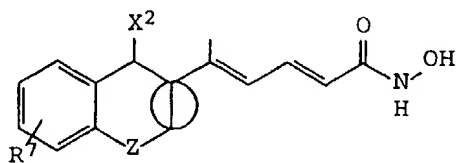
VIII

15

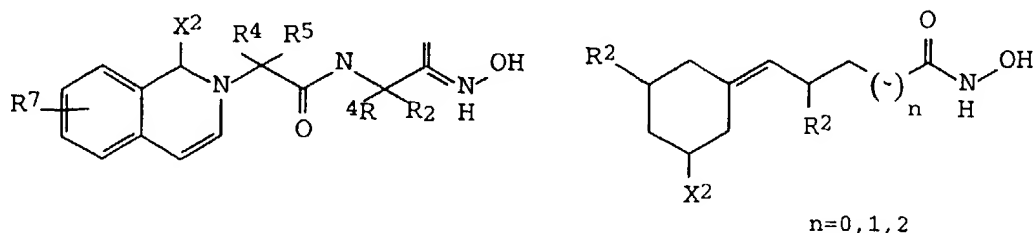
in which  $X^1$  and Y are as defined for the previous embodiment, and the other substituents are as defined above.

In yet a further embodiment compounds of the  
20 invention are cyclic molecules, such as quinolines, isoquinolines, tetrahydroquinolines, or decahydroquinolines; or a compound selected from the group consisting of

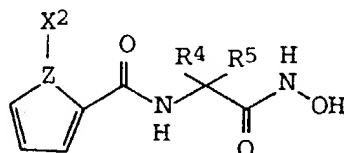
- 16 -



- 17 -



and



in which Z is O, S, NH, N-alkyl; NO; SO; CO;

5 C-R<sup>7</sup>;

X<sup>2</sup> is O, OH, aldehyde, ketone, CF<sub>3</sub>; NO<sub>2</sub>; NO; SH; S; NH; NH<sub>2</sub>; CO<sub>2</sub>H; CONH<sub>2</sub>; CO<sub>2</sub>(alkyl); CONH(alkyl); or other polar group;

R<sup>7</sup> is one or more substituents such as H; OH;  
 10 OMe; NO<sub>2</sub>; Cl; Br; F; (Me)<sub>2</sub>N; CN; NH<sub>2</sub>; NH(alkyl); N(alkyl)<sub>2</sub>; SO<sub>3</sub>H; SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>; alkyl CF<sub>3</sub>; O(alkyl); SH; S(alkyl) etc, and in which

each bond depicted as an alkene bond may alternatively be a single bond, and each single bond marked  
 15 with a circle may alternatively be a double bond.

In a fourth aspect the invention provides a composition comprising a compound of the invention, general formulae or a pharmacologically acceptable salt, ester or derivative thereof, together with a pharmaceutically or  
 20 veterinarily acceptable carrier.

The specifications of WO 93/07148 and WO 95/31977 describe the ability of the compounds disclosed therein to induce terminal differentiation and to inhibit proliferation of neoplastic cells; there is no disclosure  
 25 or suggestion of activity in hyperplastic or dysplastic conditions, modulation of immunological activity, or active against protozoal parasites. Consequently, it will be clearly understood that the following aspects of the

- 18 -

invention encompasses the use of compounds disclosed in WO 93/07148 and WO 95/31977 in addition to the novel compounds of the invention. These compounds are referred to herein as "ABHA and related compounds".

5 We have also surprisingly found that compounds of the invention, and ABHA, at a dose of 0.1 to 150 µg/ml inhibit the growth of protozoan parasites such as *Giardia duodenalis* and *Plasmodium falciparum* *in vitro* or *in vivo*.

Therefore in a fifth aspect, the invention  
10 provides a method of treatment of a protozoal parasite infection, comprising the step of administering an effective dose of one or more compounds of the invention, or of ABHA or a related compound, to a subject in need of such treatment.

15 It is contemplated that this aspect of the invention is applicable to the treatment of infection with a variety of protozoal parasites, including but not limited to protozoa of the genera *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Trichomonas*, *Histomonas*, *Plasmodium*, *Toxoplasma*,  
20 *Trypanosoma*, *Babesia*, *Balantidium*, *Naegleria*, *Entamoeba*, *Eimeria*, *Schistomaniasis*, other intestinal parasites, and the like. Many of these parasites present major public health or veterinary problems, particularly in developing countries, and currently-available therapies are  
25 unsatisfactory.

Preferably the parasite is *Giardia*, particularly *Giardia duodenalis*, *Plasmodium*, particularly *Plasmodium falciparum*, or *Trichomonas*, preferably *Trichomonas vaginalis*.

30 Preferably the compound is AAHA, MW2796, MW2996, as herein defined, or ABHA. More preferably the compound is MW2796.

We have shown that selective cytotoxicity of the compounds of the invention is facilitated by low or  
35 aberrant expression of the retinoblastoma binding protein RbAp48.

- 19 -

Therefore in a sixth aspect, the invention provides a method of identification of cancers which are particularly amenable to treatment by the method of the invention, comprising the step of detecting abnormal levels  
5 or absence of full length RbAp48 in a sample of the cancer. Suitably this may be achieved by subjecting a histological section of the tumour, obtained via biopsy or at the time of surgical excision of the tumour, to immunohistochemical analysis with an antibody directed to RbAp48. The antibody  
10 may be labelled with any suitable detectable marker, and fluorescent or radioactive markers are preferred. Fluorescent markers are particularly preferred. Suitable methods will be well known by persons skilled in the art.

The compounds of the invention may be  
15 administered by any suitable route, including but not limited to parenteral injection, for example intravenous, subcutaneous, intramuscular and intratumoural injection, oral administration, transdermal and topical  
20 administration. In general oral, transdermal or topical administration is preferred. It is expected on the basis of the general chemical properties of hydroxamates and related compounds that at least some compounds useful for the purposes of the invention will be orally bioavailable, and we have demonstrated that this is the case. Structural  
25 modifications whereby oral bioavailability can be improved are known in the art; see for example Beckett et al, 1996.

The dose and route of administration will depend on the nature of the cancer or protozoal parasite infection to be treated, any other treatments which have been  
30 administered or which are also to be used, and the general state of health of the subject, and will be at the discretion of the attending physician or veterinarian. It is contemplated that a suitable dose range will be 0.1 to 100 mg/kg body weight, administered in single or divided  
35 doses. For example, three separate doses per day may be used. Alternatively continuous infusion via a pump may be used. A wide variety of suitable carriers and formulation

- 20 -

agents is known in the art, and reference may be made for example to Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 19<sup>th</sup> Edition, Mack Publishing Company, Easton, Pennsylvania.

5 The formulation will depend on the dose and route to be used, and is a matter of routine trial and error experimentation.

10 In a seventh aspect, the invention provides a method of enhancing the selectivity of treatment of a cancer or of a protozoal parasite infection with a compound of the invention, comprising the step of administering a nucleic acid sequence complementary to a nucleic acid sequence encoding RbAp48 or to an SphI-containing sequence to the subject to be treated. Preferably the complementary sequence is targeted to tumour cells or to protozoal  
15 parasites.

20 In an eighth aspect, the invention provides a method of increasing the proportion of tumour cells recognised by the immune system, comprising the step of administering a compound of the invention to a subject suffering from the tumour, thereby to increase the proportion of tumour cells expressing MHC Class I molecules. This relates to use of compounds of the invention, or of ABHA and related compounds, to modulate immune responses of patients with cancer or any other conditions where enhancement of the  
25 immune system or of immunoregulatory molecules is required.

30 It will be clearly understood that the invention insofar as it pertains to compounds *per se* and to pharmaceutical compositions *per se* for the treatment of cancer, does not include azelaic bishydroxamic acid or compounds disclosed in WO 95/31977 or WO 93/07148.

35 For the purposes of this specification it will be clearly understood that the word "comprising" means "including but not limited to" and the word "comprises" has a corresponding meaning.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1A shows the enhanced dendritic morphology induced in melanoma cells (A,B) or HeLa cells (E,F) but not in normal melanocytes (C,D), or neonatal foreskin fibroblast cells (NFF, G,H). Inhibitor: azelaic bishydroxamic acid (ABHA), 100  $\mu$ M.

Figure 1B shows apoptosis (programmed cell death) in cells treated with 100  $\mu$ g/ml ABHA for 24 hr, fixed in methanol and stained with Hoechst 33248. Apoptotic cells have fragmented nuclei. Left panels, untreated cells. Right panels, treated cells. A,B: MM96L cells. C,D: HeLa. E,F: MM229 cells. G,H: human neonatal foreskin fibroblasts (NFF).

Figure 2 shows flow cytometry profiles illustrating the ability of compounds of the invention to block cell proliferation. Tumour cells (MM96L and HeLa) are sensitive, while normal cells (NFF, D29) are resistant. TSA: trichostatin A; Mk-4: same as azelaic-1-hydroxamate-9-anilide (AAHA) ; HU: hydroxyurea. Doses of ABHA and AAHA are in  $\mu$ g/mL; doses of TSA are in ng/mL; Numbers indicate dose; e.g.: ABHA 3 = 3  $\mu$ g/mL ABHA; Horizontal axis: DNA content.

Figure 3 illustrates the selective inhibition of tumour cell growth by ABHA.

Panel A shows the response for melanocytes (●), neonatal foreskin fibroblasts (■), HaCat transformed keratinocytes (Δ), Mel-SV melanocytes (▲) and MM418c1 melanoma (○).

Panel B shows results for the tumour cell lines HeLa cervical (□), A2058 melanoma (○), MM96L melanoma (●) and JAM ovarian carcinoma (Δ). Each point represents the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (n=3).

Figure 4 shows the loss of hyperphosphorylated retinoblastoma protein (RB) in cells treated with ABHA (13  $\mu$ g/mL) or hexamethylene bisacetamide (HMBA: 1,000  $\mu$ g/mL) for either 12 hr or three days. pprRB represents

- 22 -

hyperphosphorylated RB (115 kDa); pRB represents hypophosphorylated RB (105 kDa).

Figure 5A shows the dose response of ABHA for modulation of sheep metallothionein Ia promoter in the presence of 100  $\mu$ M ZnSO<sub>4</sub> ( $\square$  MM96-Gal;  $\circ$  HeLa-Gal). Each point represents the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (n=3).

Figure 5B shows the induction of transcription in HeLa cells after 24 hr treatment with ABHA or AAHA, using a variety of promoter constructs driving the luciferase gene and measured as luciferase activity by luminescence. The *SphI* sequence is identified as the sequence essential for full activation. Oct: octamer sequence derived from the SV40 enhancer region, and inserted into the pGL2 reporter construct; *SphI*: the *SphI* sequence; *SphII*: the *SphII* sequence; wt : wild type; dpm2, dpm7 and dpm8: similar sequences containing the mutations identified in bold type

Figure 5C shows that the *SphI* activity is induced by all histone deacetylation inhibitors tested, but only in cells expressing the tumour-suppressor gene, p16.

Figures 6A, 6B and 6C show growth of xenografted MM96L human melanomas in nude mice which had been treated with ABHA at 4 mg/day, AAHA at 5 mg/day, SBHA at 8 mg/day, TSA at 25  $\mu$ g/day or HC-toxin at 25  $\mu$ g/day.  $\bullet$  = treated with ABHA, AAHA or SBHA;  $\Delta$  = treated with TSA or HC-toxin;  $\square$  = untreated controls (n=7-11 per group).

Figure 7A shows the results of two-dimensional polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis comparing cell extracts of the melanoma cell line MM96L (a) with and (b) without treatment with 100  $\mu$ g/ml ABHA. Small black arrows indicate proteins that are lost due to drug treatment; small white arrows indicate proteins that are gained due to drug treatment.

Figure 7B shows two one-dimensional PAGE gels of proteins separated from control and treated cells. Bold arrows show proteins that are specifically induced by ABHA (100  $\mu$ g/ml for 24 hr) or by UVB (240 Joules/m<sup>2</sup> radiation for 24 hr) in sensitive cells. The cells used were MM96L



- 23 -

and A2058 melanoma cell lines, MEL/SV40 SV40-transformed melanocytes and NFF cells. \* shows the location of BSA derived from the FCS, the presence of which obscures this region of the gel. M: molecular weight markers; C:

5 control.

Figure 7C shows a western blot of MM96L cells, reacted with OV9D1 antibody to Ku86. The level of this protein (at 86 kDa) is upregulated in the cytosol (C) and depleted in the nucleus (N) by ABHA treatment (100 µg/ml  
10 for 24 hr).

Figure 8 shows a pharmacophore model in which the structures of active (grey) and inactive (white) compounds are overlaid.

Figure 9A shows acetylation of histone H4 during  
15 24 hr treatment of MM96L cells with 100 µg/ml ABHA (lane C: control, lane A: ABHA treated) or treatment of HeLa cells with 5 mM sodium butyrate (lane C: control; lane B: treated); H: histone mixture. Bands were visualised by protein staining of polyacrylamide gel separated acid-  
20 soluble material.

Figure 9B also shows acetylation of histone H4 during 24 hr treatment of MM96L, this time with 100 µg/ml ABHA, and of NFF cells with 100 µg/ml ABHA. Bands were visualised by protein staining of polyacrylamide gel  
25 separated acid-soluble material. '-' = without ABHA; '+' = with ABHA; H2A, H1, H3, H2B are other histones.

Figure 9C shows a laser densitometry trace of the time course of histone H4 acetylation during treatment with ABHA, in MM96L cells (top panels) and NFF (lower panels).  
30 H2A, H1, H3 and H2B are other histones; 4, 3, 2, 1 and 0 represent the number of acetyl groups attached; e.g. 4 = tetra-acetylhistone H4.

Figure 9D shows the rate of loss of acetylated histone H4 after removal of ABHA from the culture medium.  
35 Cells had been treated previously with 10 µg/ml ABHA for 24 hr.

- 24 -

Figure 10A shows the levels and relative sizes of proteins in cell lysates reactive with RbAp48 antibody, as revealed by western blotting. Sensitive cell lines (eg. MM96L, HeLa) had low levels of full length protein when compared with the resistant cell lines MM229, NFF, Melanocyte and A2058.

Figure 10B shows that hybrids between sensitive (HeLa) and resistant (NFF or A2058) cells tend to express a pattern of RbAp48 proteins that resembles that of the sensitive parent line; ie.: there is less full length protein (48kDa) than would have been expected from the parent resistant line. A/H mp2, A/H B5 are A2058/HeLa hybrids. N/H mp are NFF/HeLa hybrids.

Figures 11A and B show the instability of 100 ng/ml TSA (A) and HC-toxin (B) in the presence of cultured cells, compared with ABHA. The dose response for inactivation of HC-toxin (panel B) was conducted using 24, 48 and 72 hr exposures to MM96L cells and compared with incubation in culture medium alone for 72 hr. Drugs were incubated in microtitre plates with 50,000 MM96L cells per well, and at various times the medium was transferred to another plate containing 5000 MM96L cells for a 24 hr treatment, followed by a further 5 day incubation for determination of cell survival.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention will now be described in detail by way of reference only to the following general methods and examples, and to the figures.

#### Abbreviations

AAHA	azelaic-1-hydroxamate-9-anilide (Mk-4)
ABHA	azelaic bishydroxamic acid
DMEM	Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium
FCS	foetal calf serum
HMBA	hexamethylene bisacetamide
MSMS	mass spectroscopy mass spectroscopy

- 25 -

	NFF	neonatal foreskin fibroblasts
	PAGE	polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
	PBS	phosphate-buffered saline, pH 7.3
	pRB	retinoblastoma protein
5	PKC	phosphokinase C
	PVDF	polyvinyl difluoride membrane
	RbAp48	pRB binding protein
	SBHA	suberic bishydroxamic acid
	SphI	8bp nucleotide sequence derived from the Simian
10		Virus 40 (SV40) enhancer region
	TPA	12-O-tetradecanoylphorbol 13-acetate
	TRP-1	tyrosinase-related protein-1
	TSA	Trichostatin A.

## 15 Cell Culture

The origins of the human melanoma cell lines MM96E, MM96L (subclones of MM96), MM418c1 and MM418c5, the human cervical tumour cell line HeLa and the ovarian tumour cell line JAM (McEwan *et al*, 1988; Wong *et al*, 1994) and the spontaneously transformed keratinocyte line HaCat have been described previously. NFF were human neonatal foreskin fibroblasts. Normal human melanocytes from foreskins were cultured in 100 µg/mL, 12-O-tetradecanoylphorbol 13-acetate and 6 µg/ml cholera toxin. The mel-SV line of immortalised human melanocytes, obtained after infection of melanocytes with an SV40-adenovirus 5 hybrid virus, was kindly provided by Prof. P. Gallimore (Birmingham, U.K.) Cultures were grown at 37°C in Roswell Park Memorial Institute (RPMI) 1640 medium supplemented with 5% foetal calf serum (FCS) as previously described.

Cell survival was determined by performing haemocytometer counts of the increase in number of 25,000 cells seeded in 24-well plates (16 mm diameter wells) and treated with drug for 24 hr, washed twice and incubated for 3 doubling times (6 days for NFF, melanocytes and MM418; 3 days for the other cell lines).

- 26 -

Alternatively cell numbers are determined with the MTS/PMS method or by assessing <sup>3</sup>H-thymidine incorporation, which gives similar results (Parsons *et al*, 1997). Assays for galactosidase action using chlorophenol red galactoside (CPRG) substrate may be performed in microtitre plates and read using a ELISA reader (Wong *et al*, 1994).

In the functional tests described below, treated cells were compared with controls on the basis of equal cell number or protein content, the latter determined by addition of bichinchoninic acid reagent (Pierce Chemical Co, USA) to triplicates in a microtitre plate and determining the absorbance increase at 570nm. Bovine serum albumin was used as the standard.

15

#### **Synthesis of Azelaic bishydroxamic acid (ABHA)**

To a solution of azelaic acid (nonanedioic acid; 1.0 g; 5.3 mM) in dimethylformamide (25 ml) was added triethylamine (2.68 g; 3.7 ml; 26.5 mM), hydroxylamine hydrochloride (0.77 g; 11 mM and benzotriazol-1-yloxy-tris(dimethylamino)phosphonium hexafluorophosphate (6.2 g; 14 mM) and the reaction mixture stirred under nitrogen at room temperature for 12 hr. The mixture was then diluted with water (100 ml) and lyophilised to yield the crude product as a thick syrup. This material was redissolved in a mixture of acetonitrile (4 ml) and water (16 ml), filtered, and chromatographed by HPLC (Waters deltapak C18, 15 mm, 40 x 100 mm, flow 20 ml/min, eluant 20% acetonitrile/80% water/0.1% trifluoroacetic acid). The purified material was lyophilised to yield a white powder (0.92 g; 80%), which was identical by <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy and electrospray mass spectrometry with that previously reported (Breslow *et al*, 1991).

#### **35 Tyrosinase Activity and Pigmentation Antigens**

Tyrosinase (dopa oxidase) activity was measured by the oxidation of L-dopa as described (Takahashi and

- 27 -

Parsons, 1990). Immunoblotting was conducted using B8G3 mouse monoclonal antibody supernatant against TRP-1 or HMB-45 mouse antibody (diluted 1 in 250), followed by alkaline phosphatase-conjugated anti-mouse antibody, and was  
5 quantitated by a Molecular Dynamics laser densitometer with ImageQuant software.

#### **Analysis of Transcriptional Regulation Using Luciferase Transfectants**

10 Clones of MM96L and HeLa cells stably transfected with reporter plasmids were used to determine the effect of ABHA on promoter activities. Construction of the TRP-1 promoter has been described (Sturm et al, 1994). The SV40 promoter/enhancer construct was obtained from Promega. For  
15 construction of a reporter containing a p53 response element, a duplex oligonucleotide containing a strong palindromic p53 recognition site (Funk et al, 1992) was cloned as a blunt-ended fragment  
(5'CCGTCTGGACATGCCCCGGGCATGTCCTCTCC)  
20 into the blunt *Ecl* 136II site of the enhancer-probe vector pGL2-promoter (Promega). The structure of plasmids containing a single inserted oligonucleotide was confirmed by automated DNA sequencing (Taylor and Dunn, 1994), with primers allowing reading of both strands of the insert.  
25 Each of the above response elements was coupled to a luciferase reporter gene. Stably transfected cell clones were picked after co-transfection with a Neo resistance plasmid and selection with 400 µg/ml Geneticin. Cells were seeded at 50,000/well in black microtitre plates with  
30 clear, cell culture grade bottoms and incubated with drug for 6 or 24 hr. The medium was then replaced with 20 µl of Promega luciferase assay reagent and luminescence counting performed immediately *in situ* with a Packard Top Plate instrument.

35

- 28 -

**Chemical Design and Synthesis**

Compounds were synthesized using well-established organic chemistry solution and solid phase techniques. Combinatorial libraries were constructed using Combi-chem  
5 multipins, obtained from Chiron. Purification was effected by column chromatography on silica gel or by rp-HPLC using acetonitrile-water eluants. Compounds were characterised by mass spectrometry and NMR spectroscopy.

**10 Matrix Metalloproteases**

Compounds were screened in batches against a battery of metalloproteases, using conventional methods, for example assays for the matrix metalloproteins stromelysin (MMP-3 : EC3.4.24.17), human neutrophil  
15 collagenase (MMP-8: EC 3.4.24.34), and inhibitors of TNF-alpha convertase. Suitable assays are described in Birkedal-Hansen (1993) and in McGeehan et al (1994).

**Histone Hyperacetylation**

20 Histone hyperacetylation was determined by acid extraction of nuclear proteins, followed by PAGE or Triton/urea gels, and staining of gels with Coomassie blue stain. Alternatively, hyperacetylation may be determined indirectly by accessibility of DNA to Hoechst 33258, using  
25 flow cytometry, and directly by PAGE. Levels of histone deacetylase and acetyl transferase are measured by Western blotting, or by RT-PCR from the published sequences. cDNA is used for constructing expression vectors, as carried out for Brn-2 antisense sequences (Thompson et al, 1995).

30

**Xenografts of Melanoma**

Xenografts of melanoma MM96L, HeLa and the ovarian cancer cell line JAM were grown in nude mice (6 per group, 2 sites per mouse on the flanks) as described  
35 previously (Parsons et al, 1991). After 1 week to establish tumours, drug treatments in saline were given i.p. once daily to 3 mice at a concentration just below any

- 29 -

toxic level found, then at a lower, more efficacious dose to all 6 mice in each group. In initial experiments with BALB/c mice, no general toxicity has been found for ABHA. The size of tumours was measured weekly, and animals

5 euthanised when the tumour reached 1 cm diameter. If any tumours developed in treated mice, tumour cells were isolated back into culture to determine if resistance had developed.

## 10 Receptor Identification

### a) 2D PAGE

Cells were grown in the presence or absence of 10 µg/mL test compound in normal medium for 24 hr. Cells (10<sup>6</sup>) were then harvested, washed with cold saline and

15 lysed. Cell membranes were removed by centrifugation and protein extracts loaded on to immobilised pH gradient (IPG) gels for isoelectric focussing. Focussing normally requires 250,000 volt/hours. The IPG gels were then separated in polyacrylamide gels (4%-15%) and silver

20 stained. In a modification, the protein extract is first mixed with 10 mg/mL of radiolabelled differentiating agent and viewed by autoradiography at the end of the experiment. Specific proteins can be extracted directly from acrylamide gels or electroblotted onto PVDF membrane. Using

25 preparative 2D PAGE techniques, it is possible to load up to 50 mg of proteins in a complex mixture. Depending on the level of expression, this may require partial purification of protein extracts (prior to loading) by molecular weight partitioning with "centricons" or by size

30 exclusion chromatography. Larger scale cell culture (up to 10<sup>9</sup> cells) may also be required. Protocols used in all studies are similar to those used in the Australian Proteome Analysis Facility (APAF), Macquarie University.

### 35 b) Biacore™ Analysis

A suitably functionalised differentiating agent is linked to the surface of a CM-5 chip through a series of

- 30 -

glycine residues using standard solid phase peptide coupling. Cell lysates are then fractioned to remove particulate matter and passed over the immobilised differentiating agent. The immobilised material is then washed with buffered saline and desorbed (usually by changing pH or ionic strength). Desorbed material can be collected and run on gels to identify which bands in the 2D-PAGE experiments are binding. Up to 30 ng of protein is collected from a single Biacore™ experiment, although this depends on the strength of the interaction and number of receptors. It may be necessary to prepare an affinity column to obtain sufficient protein for analysis.

c) *Affinity chromatography*

The compound is linked to the solid support Tresyl Sepharose or similar. Cell lysates ( $10^8$  or more cells) prepared in 0.5% Triton X-100 are diluted into low salt buffer and after washing unbound material away Sepharose-bound proteins are eluted with batches of NaCl (to 2M) and finally by electroelution. Fractions are run on PAGE gels with silver detection of proteins. Relevant bands from a large scale preparation are transferred to PVDF membrane and the protein N-terminus sequenced by MSMS and tryptic digests.

**Pharmacological Profiles**

LogP values are predicted using PALLAS pKalc and PrologP programs (Compudrug Chemistry Ltd, Hungary), and measured using a HPLC elution rates and a standard calibration curve with control compounds of known LogP.

**Cell Uptake Experiments**

HeLa cells, human fibroblasts or any other desired test cells are seeded at  $10^6$  cells per mL and grown in Dulbecco's Modified Eagles Medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% foetal calf serum (FCS) at 37°C. After 20 hr, medium is removed, cells are washed twice with 5 mL of



- 31 -

medium (without FCS) and test compound labelled with a suitable isotope is added to cells at varying concentrations (0.05 - 1 mM) in DMEM. Cells are grown for 20 hr more, washed twice with ice-cold DMEM, and counted in a liquid scintillation counter.

Example 1      Morphology and Cell Survival

Within 12 hr of commencing ABHA treatment, cells revealed characteristic morphological changes. The pigmented line, MM418c5, and the amelanotic melanoma line MM96E altered from spindle shape to markedly elongated cells with long processes. HeLa morphology changed from cuboidal to a more elongated, spindle-shape, with many cells possessing distinct processes. This is shown in Figure 1A .

In contrast, the transformed kidney cell line 293 formed large aggregates of cells instead of flattened colonies. Cells ceased to proliferate after several days treatment, but there were no signs of overt toxicity until higher doses were used (100 µg/ml ABHA). Apoptotic cells were detected, as shown in Figure 1B, and tended to be more numerous in sensitive cell types (MM96L, HeLa) than in resistant cells (NFF, MM229). This is summarized in Table 1.

25

- 32 -

Table 1

Apoptosis Induced in Human Cells by 24 hr  
Treatment with 100 µg/ml ABHA

Cell Line	% Cells Undergoing Apoptosis <sup>a</sup>	
	Control	ABHA-treated
MM96L	0	25
HeLa	0.5	5.0
MM229	0	3.0
NFF	0	2.5

5

<sup>a</sup> Determined by scoring 3 fields (30-158 cells/field) under the fluorescence microscope, after staining fixed cells with 5 µg/ml Hoechst 33248.

10 Melanoma cells were considerably more sensitive than HeLa cells, and a higher proportion of the former became arrested in G1. This is illustrated in Figure 2, which shows the effect of the hydroxamates ABHA and AAHA on the cycling of sensitive (MM96L, HeLa) and resistant (NFF, 15 229) cells. Hydroxyurea (HU) was included as a control agent to show that the cells could be blocked in G1, and Trichostatin A (TSA) was included for comparison. Sensitive cells show some arrest in G1 with hydroxamate treatment (24 hr), whereas resistant cells accumulated in 20 G2. S phase has not been analysed. These results were confirmed independently by briefly labelling cells with <sup>3</sup>H-thymidine after drug treatment. The results showed slight inhibition of DNA synthesis in MM96L cells (52% of controls), compared with a much greater inhibition in NFF 25 (3.7% of controls). In contrast, the non-selective drug butyrate gave levels of 10% and 2%, respectively.

Both long and short term treatment of cells revealed that ABHA was 100-fold more potent for inhibiting

- 33 -

growth than HMBA or azelaic acid. Treatment for 24 hr was about 10-fold less effective than for 6 days, but the former treatment time was further explored because of the limited exposure period anticipated *in vivo*. Compared on the basis of cell growth for 3 doubling times following a 24 hr treatment, ABHA was found to be highly selective against tumour cell lines compared with fibroblasts and melanocytes.

These results are summarised in Figure 3.

Selectivity was also observed with HeLa, which although being the most resistant tumour line tested, was more sensitive than the normal cells. Our results show that ABHA and AAHA are 100 times more potent as differentiating agents *in vitro* than HMBA. We have found that ABHA is not only more potent than HMBA, but is selectively toxic to five human tumour cell lines, as well as to SV40-transformed melanocytes (37% survival at 30-100 µg/ml), compared to normal cells (melanocytes, fibroblasts; 37% at >300 µg/ml). This selectivity is in contrast to the effect of known cytotoxic hydroxamates (Brown, 1995) and of HMBA, which shows 37% survival at >1000 µg/ml for both tumour and normal cells. ABHA shows little toxicity to fibroblasts and melanocytes even at 1 mM concentration.

Table 2 summarises results obtained from a much larger number of cell types. These confirm the trend observed above, except for several melanoma cell lines (A2058, MM229) which showed some resistance to ABHA. It should also be noted that TSA was selective against a smaller range of cell lines than ABHA; AAHA, however, shows selectivity similar to ABHA but has slightly greater potency.

- 34 -

Table 2  
Toxicity of Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors in Human Cells

CELL	CELL TYPE	D <sub>37</sub> <sup>a</sup>			
		TSA (ng/ml)	ABHA (µg/ml)	AAHA (µg/ml)	HC-TOXIN (ng/ml)
<u>Normal</u>					
NFF	fibroblasts	50	>300	>100	>300
NM	melanocytes	170	196	>100	
<u>Tumour</u>					
MM96L	melanoma	10	14	8.0	62.5
MM229	melanoma	413	179	26	
MM418c1	melanoma	38	16	6	
MM485	melanoma		21		62.5
HT 144	melanoma	120	72	39	
MF10538	melanoma		62.5		
A2058	melanoma	163	236	>100	75
SILMEL13	melanoma		87.5		254
HeLa	cervical carcinoma	50	56	30	
A549	lung carcinoma	39	28	8.7	
H520	lung carcinoma		33		66.5
LIM 1215	colon carcinoma	30	26	10	50

- 35 -

Table 2 cont.

CELL	CELL TYPE	D <sub>37</sub> <sup>a</sup>			
		TSA (ng/ml)	ABHA (µg/ml)	AAHA (µg/ml)	HC-TOXIN (ng/ml)
HT29	colon carcinoma	10	92		>300
CI80-13S	ovarian cancer		10	8.0	
JAM	ovarian cancer				
RDES	Ewing's sarcoma		17		25
WSB	Ewing's sarcoma		29		25
Colo16	squamous cell cancer		175		92
MCC26	Merkel cell cancer		150		270
Mutu	Lymphoma		3		
<u>Transformed</u>					
MelSV <sup>40</sup>	melanocyte		21		30
293	kidney	37	10	8.6	
HACat	keratinocytes		100		

<sup>a</sup> Dose required to reduce survival to 37% of control

- 36 -

Although ABHA and AAHA are of relatively low potency, the key finding is the selectivity of these compounds in killing melanoma, ovarian and cervical tumour cells, and a range of other tumour cell types without affecting growth of normal cells like melanocytes and fibroblasts. This is a novel result. The basis for this *in vitro* selectivity for tumour cells and the cellular target(s) are elaborated below.

10 Example 2      Expression of Pigmentation Markers and pRB

The activity of tyrosinase, a major enzyme in melanin synthesis, was assayed in MM96E and MM418c5 after 72 hr treatment, by which time activity had reached a minimum. The results are summarised in Table 3.

15

Table 3

CELL LINE	AGENT	DOSE ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{ML}$ )	ANTIGENIC EXPRESSION (% of control)		TYROSINASE ACTIVITY (% control)
			TRP-1	HMB-45	
MM96E	Azelaic acid	2,000	54	81	NT*
	HMBA	1,000	3.2	0.4	$107 \pm 7^{\#}$
	ABHA	30	9.1	7.7	$44 \pm 4$
MM418c5	Azelaic acid	2,000	75	47	NT
	HMBA	1,000	7.2	48	$141 \pm 12$
	ABHA	30	27	160	$86 \pm 4$

\* NT, not tested

# Mean and SD of triplicates

- 38 -

High levels of ABHA caused marked inhibition of tyrosinase activity in both cell lines. HMBA at an equitoxic concentration was less effective. Expression of the melanosomal antigens TRP-1 and HMB-45, determined by Western blotting, was greatly reduced by ABHA and HMBA, the latter being more effective than ABHA in the pigmented MM418c5 cells. Azelaic acid at an approximately equitoxic dose had little effect.

Treatment of the MM418 melanoma cell line with 100 µg/ml ABHA for 24 hr was found to increase the proportion of cells expressing the MHC class I molecule from 93% to 98%, as determined by flow cytometry. The MHC Class I molecule was that recognised by B7 antibody. This suggests that the compounds of the invention may be effective in increasing the proportion of tumour cells recognised by the immune system.

As shown in Figure 4, during the first 12 hr of ABHA treatment the level of hyperphosphorylated pRB (ppRB) was not affected, but a small amount of pRB (hypophosphorylated form) could be detected. After prolonged treatment of MM96L the ppRB was lost, but pRB remained in both ABHA- and HMBA-treated cells. The loss of ppRB was less marked in HeLa cells than in MM96L cells.

### Example 3      ABHA-Induced Differentiation of RNA and Protein Synthesis

The RNA and protein requirements associated with ABHA-induced differentiation were investigated in HeLa cells.  $5 \times 10^4$  cells were treated in a microtitre plate with 10 and 100 µg/ml ABHA for 24 hr. 10 µg/ml cycloheximide or 2 mg/ml actinomycin D was added at 0, 5, 10, 18 and 24 hr. The cells were then fixed with 5% acetic acid in ethanol, and stained with IFA. The dendritic cells in each well were counted, either manually or by image analysis on the inverted microscope, on the basis of cell shape.



- 39 -

There was an 80% reduction in the number of dendritic cells formed in response to ABHA in the presence of either of the inhibitors. ABHA-induced differentiation therefore is dependent on both RNA and protein synthesis, suggesting that ABHA is not acting solely as an inhibitor of cellular functions, but also induces the transcription of genes involved in differentiation.

Example 4      ABHA-induced Transcriptional Changes  
10                      Determined by Reporter Genes

Cell clones stably transfected with a range of reporter constructs were used to test directly the effect of differentiating agents on specific gene promoters related to control of the cell cycle. In several instances the transcriptional effects of ABHA in sensitive MM96L cells and relatively resistant HeLa cells were also compared. The results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4  
Transcriptional Regulation of Luciferase-Linked Reporter Constructs  
in MM96L and HeLa Cells

DNA Motif	Drug	Dose ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	INDUCTION (% Control)*			
			MM96L		HeLa	
			6 hr	24 hr	6 hr	24 hr
p53 response	ABHA	30	73	36	61	172
	ABHA	100	68	25	76	202
	HMBA	1000	84	93	74	73
c-fos promoter	Azelaic acid	2000	97	194	59	30
	ABHA	30	101	639	31	388
	ABHA	100	103	459	34	580
	HMBA	1000	171	270	240	118
	Azelaic acid	2000	121	61	58	77
HIV LTR	ABHA	30	88	233	133	320
	ABHA	100	96	332	98	448
	HMBA	1000	121	104	113	55
	Azelaic acid	2000	99	87	77	38
SV40 promoter	ABHA	30	131	237	NT*	NT
	ABHA	100	130	352	NT	NT
	HMBA	1000	90	48	NT	NT

Table 4 (cont.)

DNA Motif	Drug	Dose ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	INDUCTION (% Control) *				
			MM96L			HeLa	
			6 hr	24 hr	6 hr	24 hr	24 hr
TRP-1 promoter	Azelaic acid	2000	88	48	NT	NT	NT
	ABHA	30	42	32	NT	NT	NT
	ABHA	100	41	28	NT	NT	NT
	HMBA	1000	47	39	NT	NT	NT
	Azelaic acid	2000	44	91	NT	NT	NT

\* Means of triplicates

# NT, not tested

- 42 -

The results were confirmed with a second cell clone. ABHA treatment for 24 hr resulted in elevation of *c-fos* and SV40 promoter activities, whereas equitoxic levels of HMBA and azelaic acid had lesser effects or were inhibitory. All the compounds tested inhibited the TRP-1 promoter, after 6 hr or 24 hr treatment.

In some instances the sensitive MM96L cells gave different responses to ABHA compared to HeLa cells. MM96L showed inhibition of p53-activation in a 24 hr treatment. *c-Fos* promoter activity was strongly inhibited in HeLa but not in MM96L, following a 6 hr treatment with ABHA.

#### Example 5      Effect on Transcriptional Activity

##### a) Metallothionein Promoter

MM96L and HeLa cells were transfected by electroporation with the p294MetM3 plasmid containing the sheep metallothionein Ia promoter and  $\beta$ -galactosidase, followed by selection of stably transfected clones with hygromycin (Wong et al, 1994). For reporter assays, cells were seeded in microtitre plates ( $5 \times 10^4$ /well) and treated next day. Medium was removed and  $\beta$ -galactosidase activity was measured in an ELISA reader at 570 nm using chlorophenol red galactoside as the substrate, essentially as previously described (Wong et al, 1994).

The zinc-induced activity of the metallothionein promoter in 6 stably transfected, mixed clones of MM96L cells (MM96L-gal) was highly sensitive to ABHA, enhancement being detected after a 5 hr treatment with 1  $\mu$ g/ml of drug. The results are shown in Figure 5A. The dose response of 6 mixed HeLa-gal clones showed an inverse response, being inhibited to 40% of the control at 10  $\mu$ g/ml ABHA. Similar trends were found when transiently-transfected cells were used. When MM96L-gal cells were treated with 10  $\mu$ g/ml ABHA for 24 hr, washed, and then induced with zinc for 5 hr, increased activity ( $181 \pm 13\%$ ) was also obtained, indicating that ABHA was not acting by transporting zinc into the cells. The ABHA enhancement of zinc activity was

- 43 -

not abrogated by exposure to the PKC inhibitors calphostin C (0.5 µg/ml) or bisindolyl maleimide (1 µg/ml).

b) *SphI*-containing Promoter

5           A more dramatic example of gene activation by ABHA and AAHA was found in association with a motif which forms part of the SV40 and mammalian gene promoters. A range of different promoter constructs showed that the *SphI* sequence (AAG CAT GC) was responsible for this activation, 10 as illustrated in Figure 5B. Activation occurred with all histone deacetylase inhibitors tested, but was only observed in cells that over-expressed the tumour suppressor gene, p16, as shown in Figure 5C. This finding is relevant to identifying the range of mammalian genes that are 15 activated by such drugs.

c) *DNA Methylation*

          These compounds also inhibit the methylation of DNA, and thus provide a supplementary mechanism for 20 regulation of gene expression in sensitive or resistant cells. The A4/4 cell line is a derivative of 293 cells, which were shown in Table 2 to be sensitive to ABHA and AAHA. A4/4 cells were transfected with a reporter plasmid that is silenced by DNA methylation. Treatment with a 25 demethylating agent (5-azacytidine; Biard et al, 1992) inhibits DNA remethylation of the daughter strand after cell division, allowing recovery of the reporter activity, detected as β-galactosidase. Treatment of A4/4 cells for 40 hr gave substantial increases in reporter activity, as 30 summarised in Table 5.

Table 5  
Effect of Compounds of the Invention  
on Recovery of Reporter Activity  
(% of control)

5

Compound Dose ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	ABHA	SBHA
1	180	NT
3	NT	241
10	390	NT
100	331	NT

NT - not tested

Example 6      Inhibition of Growth of Xenografted Melanoma  
In Vivo

10

Xenografts of melanoma cell line MM96L were established in BALB/c nude (nu/nu) mice. One group of mice was treated with compounds of the invention at a dose of 4 mg/day by intraperitoneal injection. Because of limited supplies of the compounds, the dose could only be administered at 5/7 days per week. As shown in Figure 6, the growth of the melanoma was significantly inhibited by treatment with ABHA, AAHA and SBHA, compared to control, untreated mice. This is particularly noteworthy, because the melanoma cell line MM96L is resistant to treatment by conventional antitumour agents, both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Indeed, as far as we are aware, these are the first compounds which have been demonstrated to inhibit the growth of this cell line. In contrast, TSA and HC-toxin were inactive, even though the doses used were 5-10 fold higher than the equivalent dose of ABHA.

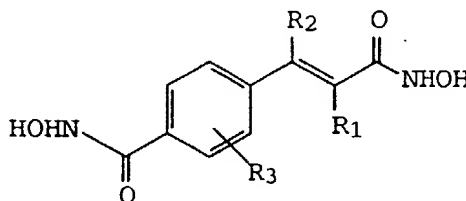
Cultured cells from the small tumours which were still surviving at day 40 were still sensitive to the compounds, indicating that higher doses could be used. The dose administered was well-tolerated, and no signs of overt toxicity were detected. ABHA has no degradable substituents, and hydroxamates are quite stable to

30

metabolism *in vivo*. This is discussed further in Example 9.

Example 7 Mapping of Receptor and Optimisation of Drug Structure

A number of hydroxamate compounds have been synthesised within our group, and by others (Lofas and Johnsson, 1990). In order to map the receptor we have focused on examining the distance requirements between the two polar ends of the compounds. Thus, the carbon chain length has been varied and replaced by rigid spacers, for example aromatic rings and cinnamyl groups as in 5.



5 and derivatives

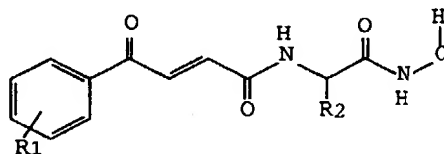
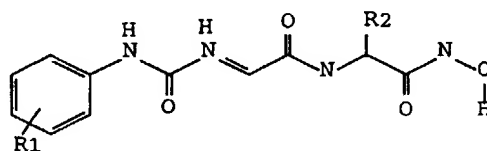
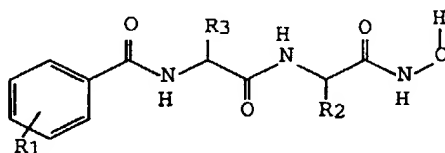
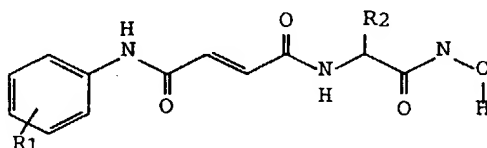
$\text{R}_1$  or  $\text{R}_2$  is H, alkyl, etc.

$\text{R}_3$  is  $\text{NO}_2$ , halogen,  $\text{NH}_2$ , OH, etc.

An overlay of the structures of active (grey) and inactive (white) compounds, depicted in Figure 8, clearly shows large differences in accessible three-dimensional space for these two classes. In each case, one hydroxamate moiety has been tightly superimposed while the remainder of the molecule is free to move. Active compounds form a tight cluster with the second hydroxamate (or carbonyl) in close array and the backbones tightly packed. In contrast, the inactive series forms a disparate array of second hydroxamate (or carbonyl) geometries. The key feature of this map is the relative location of the two ends of the compounds, which are in different positions for active and inactive compounds.

Since the initial development of this pharmacophore, significant backbone branching or substitution has been incorporated into the basic structure. A series of compounds which maintain the binding geometry of the two termini but vary in their size and substitution patterns has been synthesized in order to define the spatial requirements for receptor binding.

This aim is achieved by synthesizing both peptide-based and hydrocarbon-based compounds:



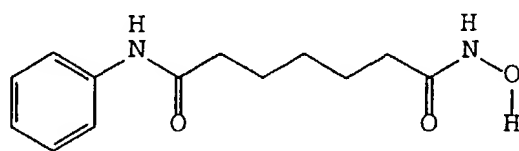
#### Peptide-based mono-hydroxamate libraries

$R_1 = \text{H}; \text{OH}; \text{OCH}_3; \text{Cl}; \text{Br}; \text{NO}_2; \text{Nme}_2; \text{etc.}$

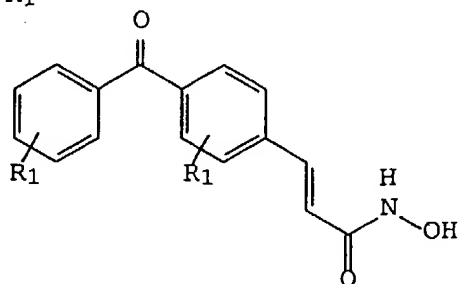
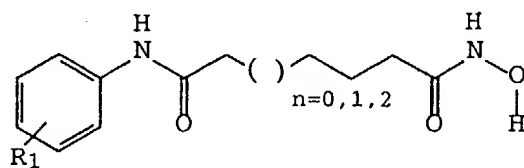
$R_2$  and  $R_3$  are D or L amino acid side chains



- 47 -

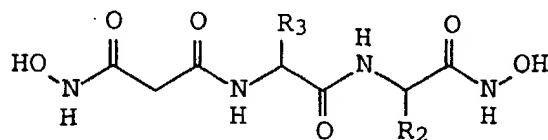
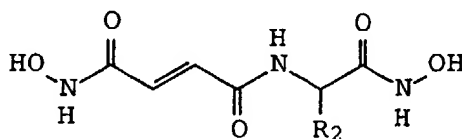
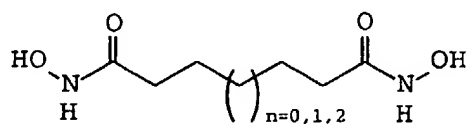


6



## Non-peptide based mono-hydroxamate library

5

 $R_1 = \text{H}; \text{OH}; \text{OCH}_3; \text{Cl}; \text{Br}; \text{NO}_2; \text{Nme}_2; \text{etc.}$  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are D or L amino acid side chains

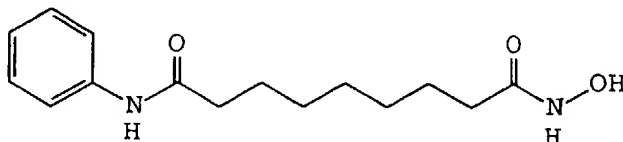
10

 $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are D or L amino acid side chains

## Peptide-based bis-hydroxamate library

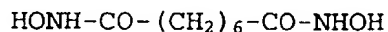
Preferred compounds which we have found to be active are

5 AAHA (previously designated Mk-4 in the priority application)

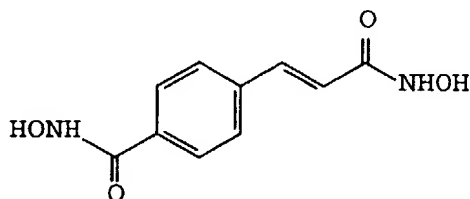


SBHA

10

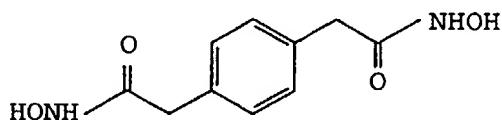


MW2796



15

MW2996



20

The peptide-based compounds incorporate one, two or three amide bonds within the linker to act as rigid planar constraints, as well as probing hydrogen bonding interactions along the backbone of the inhibitor. In addition to these constraints, the addition of amino acid side chains (D or L) probes steric as well as hydrophobic, hydrogen bonding and charge-charge interactions within the receptor.

30

### Example 8      Two-Dimensional Electrophoresis

Preliminary results have shown that comparison of 2-dimensional gel electrophoresis patterns, obtained as described above, can be used to generate a subtraction map to identify proteins which are present in cells treated with compounds of the invention, but are absent in untreated cells. Qualitative differences were confirmed using a subtraction map of normal NFF cells. A comparison of the two-dimensional electrophoresis patterns of treated and untreated MM96L cells is shown in Figures 7A and 7B. Samples from a number of cell lines were extracted from cytosolic proteins after 16 hr treatment with ABHA. Extracts were electrophoresed on one-dimensional gels (Figure 7C) and then samples of the MM96L lysates (control (A) and treated with 100 µg/ml ABHA (B)) were subjected to two-dimensional electrophoresis on a pH 3-10 isoelectric focusing gel followed by an 8-18% SDS polyacrylamide gel. Increases or new proteins are shown with solid arrows, and losses are shown with white arrows.

The changes in protein expression which were observed were sufficiently large to identify bands, which are related to sensitivity, on one-dimensional protein gels, by comparison with resistant cells. This is illustrated in Figure 7C. One candidate, which we have identified as the autoantigen Ku 86 by Western blotting, is highly expressed in sensitive cells, and is further increased by ABHA treatment, as shown in Figure 7D. 25 µl of cell lysate from cytoplasmic extract or from cytoplasmic membrane and nucleus was loaded on to each lane. After Western transfer, cells were reacted with monoclonal antibody OV9D1, which reacts with Ku86 polypeptide.

This approach can generate as many as 1600 compounds for the peptidic library shown above. Initially 20-30 compounds are synthesized to probe receptor space. These focused libraries are prepared using standard solid phase peptide synthesis protocols in a multiple-pin based combinatorial chemistry approach. On the basis of initial

results obtained using these libraries, further compounds are subsequently made to optimise interactions and the pharmacological profile.

5    Example 9        Hydrocarbon Library

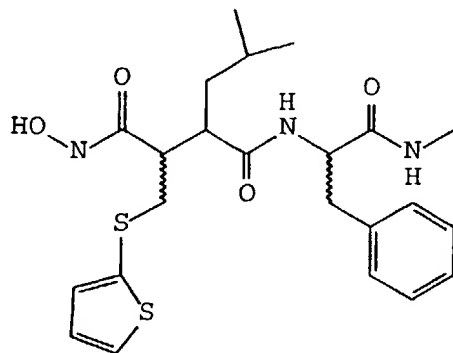
          A combination of solution organic synthesis and a combinatorial non-peptide synthesis (Rockwell *et al*, 1996) may be used to prepare a hydrocarbon library.

          Aromatic compounds (eg. 5 in Example 6) have much  
10    more rigid backbones than their peptidic counterparts. Substituents on the aromatic ring impose additional steric constraints. Whereas in the peptidic series some backbone reorganisation can relieve an unfavourable steric  
15    interaction, this is generally not the case for substituted aromatics. Consequently these latter compounds provide a  
20    more accurate but also more limited picture of steric requirements for activity. A series of up to 125 compounds (5 substituents at each of the 3 positions, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>) was made in the first instance. These compounds were prepared  
25    by conventional solution chemistry, and characterised spectroscopically.

          The requirement for two hydroxamic acid groups was also investigated. In a recent report (Richon *et al*, 1996), the monohydroxamate 6, whose structure was shown  
25    earlier, was reported to be as effective as ABHA in inducing cell differentiation. We have tested this compound for selectivity against tumour cells over normal cells. Our initial results indicate that 6, like ABHA, inhibits G<sub>1</sub> to S phase transition. In the event that 6  
30    demonstrates selective cytotoxicity comparable to that ABHA for human cells, a series of 20-30 compounds similar to those described above, in which one hydroxamate is varied, is examined as illustrated below.

          Three compound classes which are structurally  
35    similar to 6 and ABHA may be important in optimising this drug lead, for reasons described in Example 6. These are based on the monohydroxamate batimastat 7 (British

Biotechnology), which is not selective for tumour cells over normal cells when compared to ABHA.



7

5

These focused combinatorial libraries are used to identify salient features of the next generation of differentiating agents, and result in a 10-1000 fold increase in activity without sacrificing selectivity. Combining the information from these studies allows the development of potent and selective differentiating agents, which can be refined for improved bioavailability, and used to extract target protein(s) from cellular lysates, as discussed below.

#### Example 10      Evaluation of Selectivity

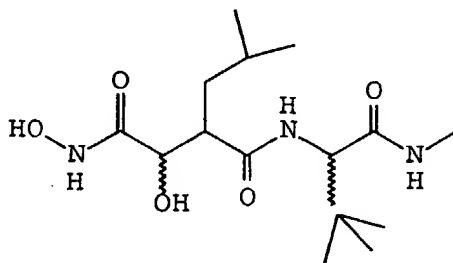
##### a) Cytotoxicity

Comprehensive drug screening was carried out using the panel of cell lines used in Example 1. Other normal cells (neutrophils; eosinophils; macrophages; B lymphocytes), transformed cell lines and other cancer cell lines (colon and breast tumour cells) are used for further evaluation, if appropriate. These additional data enable elucidation of detailed selectivity profiles of cytotoxicity for each compound. Results like those in Example 1 are used to guide selection of candidates for *in vivo* screening.

b) Metalloprotease Inhibition

Matrix metalloproteases (MMPs) are a family of Zn/Ca enzymes that degrade the chief components of the extracellular matrix. Most malignant tumours produce high concentrations of MMPs. Although inhibited naturally by tissue inhibitors of metalloproteases (TIMPs), over-expression and activation of MMPs causes an imbalance resulting in tissue degradation. It is widely thought that MMPs are important in the growth and spread of malignant tumours, and they have also been associated with chronic diseases such as arthritis and multiple sclerosis (Beckett et al, 1996). Although compounds such as 7 and 8 are non-selective broad-spectrum MMP inhibitors, they have been found to prevent or reduce spread or growth in models of metastasis, angiogenesis and tumour progression (Beckett et al, 1996). Administration i.p. of 7 was effective against malignant ascites that formed in the peritoneal cavity in a murine xenograft model of human ovarian carcinoma. However, these compounds inhibit many metalloenzymes, and are cytotoxic to at least some normal cells as well as a certain tumour cells.

The compounds of the invention are tested in metalloprotease assays, because of the known antitumour properties of hydroxamates like 7 and the more promising 8 (Beckett et al, 1996).



8

No significant inhibition of MMP activity has been observed for any compounds of the invention.

c) *Inhibition of Histone Hyperacetylation*

The fundamental unit of the eukaryotic genome is the nucleosome, which is composed of DNA wrapped around a histone octamer. Histones are reversibly acetylated on the  $\epsilon$ -amino group of Lys residues. Since interactions between acetylated histones and DNA are thought to be crucial for gene expression (Wolffe, 1996), regulators of histone acetylation might be expected to affect transcription.

Recent genetic, biochemical and immunological evidence suggests that histones involved with transcribed genes are more highly acetylated than histones from non-transcribed regions (Taunton et al, 1996). Inhibitors of histone deacetylase would increase the levels of histone acetylation. At concentrations in the millimolar range the weak differentiating agent, butyrate (1), is known to inhibit the acetylation of histones (Kijima et al, 1993), inducing intracellular accumulation of hyperacetylated histones. Differentiation and cell cycle arrest could possibly be attributed to hyperacetylation of histones.

Histone hyperacetylation was examined by PAGE as described above, using MM96L melanoma cells. The results are illustrated in Figure 9, and Figure 9A shows that acetylation of histone H4 is increased following exposure of the cells to ABHA at a dose of 100  $\mu$ g/ml for 24 hr. We believe that this results from inhibition of histone deacetylase.

The time course (Figure 9B) shows that acetylation increases within 2 hr of treatment, and then decays over the next 24 hr if drug is removed (Figure 9C). Repeated experiments did not find any major difference between hydroxamate-sensitive and -resistant cells, as shown in Table 6.

- 54 -

Table 6

Acetylation of Histone H<sub>4</sub> During 24 hr  
Treatment with Differentiating Agents

Cell	TETRA-ACETYL-H <sub>4</sub> (% total H <sub>4</sub> ) <sup>a</sup>			
	0	ABHA (10 µg/ml)	ABHA (100 µg/ml)	Butyrate (5 mM)
MM96L	0	0	28±4.3 <sup>b</sup>	18
MM229	0	0	23	13
HeLa	0	0	32	12
NFF	0	0	20±1.6 <sup>b</sup>	22
Melanocyte	0	1.7	13	NT

5

<sup>a</sup> Histones separated on Triton-urea gels were stained with Coomassie-blue and quantitated with a laser

<sup>b</sup> Mean and SD of 2-3 experiments

10 Example 11      Low Expression of Full Length RbAp48 in Hydroxamate Sensitive Cells

Western blotting of cell lysates showed that hydroxamate-sensitive cells expressed a low molecular weight form of a protein able to bind to retinoblastoma protein, designated protein RbAp48, as shown in Figure 10A, and/or expressed low levels of the full length RbAp48, as shown in Table 7.

15



Table 7

Relationship Between Resistance to Histone  
Deacetylase Inhibitors and Expression of RbAp48

CELL	LEVEL OF IMMUNOREACTIVITY WITH RbAp48 ANTIBODY <sup>a</sup>	
	48 kDa	38 kDa
<b><u>Resistant</u></b>		
NFF	1.0	0
Melanocytes	1.01	0
MM229	2.08	0
A2058	1.60	0
<b><u>Sensitive</u></b>		
MM96L	0.62	0
MM418c1	0	0
HT144	0	2.45
HeLa	0	1.0
A549	0	1.65
LIM1215	0.15	0
CI80-13S	0	0.18
293	0	0.49
HACat	0	0

5

<sup>a</sup> Densitometer values of bands on Western blots, relative to the 48 kDa band obtained from an equal protein loading of NFF.

10

A variety of different tumour cell lines was tested. The association with sensitivity was confirmed in cell hybrids between sensitive and resistant cells, which expressed the RbAp48 pattern of the sensitive partner (Figure 10B), and were sensitive to killing by ABHA. Thus we have shown that hydroxamate sensitivity is a dominant negative phenotype in human tumour cells.

15

Example 12      Anti-tumour Activity In Vivo

The *in vivo* protocol described in Example 5 was used to test the efficacy of compounds of the invention at different doses against xenografts in nude mice of the human melanoma cell line (MM96L), an ovarian cancer cell line (JAM), a cervical cancer (HeLa), and the B16 mouse melanoma in C57 mice. The results of these initial experiments have been used for comparative evaluation of derivatives which are expected to be much more potent and selective, in order to identify compounds with better *in vivo* profiles of activity than ABHA. Some choices are made about which compounds are the most appropriate to test, based on LogPs, (octanol solubility divided by water solubility) of between 0 and 4, and likely metabolism and toxicities. Detailed dose response curves are obtained for the most promising compounds. The most active compounds are also tested in combination therapy with known antitumour agents for synergy, and cross resistance.

We have shown that the lack of activity of TSA and HC-toxin *in vivo* correlates with inactivation of their killing effects when incubated with cultured cells. This is illustrated in Figure 11. Since liver and kidney metabolism is expected to be far more active than that of the cultured cells used here, these drugs are unlikely to be effective *in vivo* even at higher doses. In contrast to this finding, compounds useful in the method of the invention, exemplified by ABHA, are both stable *in vitro* (Figure 11) and active *in vivo* (Figure 6).

30 Example 13      Optimisation of the Pharmacological Profile  
a) Cell Uptake

In order for compounds to show a therapeutic effect, they need to penetrate cell membranes. Partition coefficients ( $\text{LogP} = \% \text{ octanol soluble} / \% \text{ water soluble}$ ) are predicted during the design phase using computer software. LogP values are then experimentally determined by reverse phase HPLC. Generally, compounds desirably have

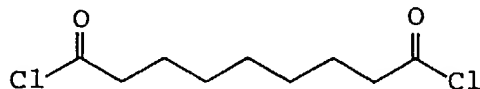
LogP values of 0 to 4, or have substituents that are known to facilitate uptake (eg. by amine pumps, etc).

b) Bioavailability

5                   Compounds which are found to be sufficiently  
potent and selective *in vitro*, and show promise as  
antitumour agents *in vivo* in mice, are evaluated for  
bioavailability in animals. A single dose of drug  
(10 mg/kg) is administered i.v. and p.o. in parallel  
10 experiments to 200-250g Sprague-Dawley rats. Serum is  
sampled and the parameters  $t_{1/2}$ ,  $T_{max}$ ,  $C_{max}$ ,  $F\%$  are then  
calculated. For very promising candidates, further tests  
are performed in dogs, using similar methods.

15 Example 14      Synthesis of the Non-Peptidic Inhibitor AAHA

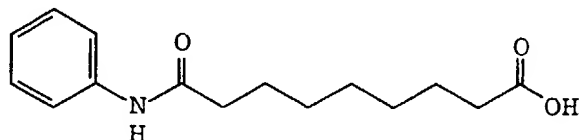
To a 500 mL round bottom flask containing azelaic  
acid (20 g, 106 mmol) was added 25 mL of thionyl chloride.  
An air condenser was fitted and the mixture brought to  
reflux for 30 minutes after which the excess thionyl  
20 chloride was removed *in vacuo*, leaving a residue of the  
diacid chloride:



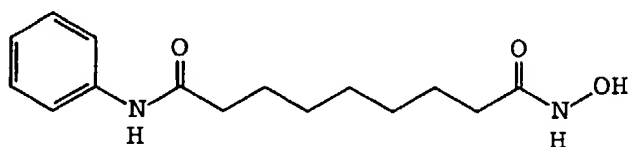
25                   To a 500 mL round bottom flask containing the  
diacid chloride prepared above was added dropwise a  
solution containing aniline (10.65 mL, 117 mmol),  
N-methylmorpholine (12.85 mL, 117 mmol) and dichloromethane  
(100 mL). After addition was complete, the mixture was  
30 allowed to stir at room temperature for 20 minutes. The  
dichloromethane was then removed *in vacuo* and the residue  
taken up into 200 mL of 5% sodium hydroxide and extracted  
with 3 x 100 mL aliquots of ethyl acetate. The basic layer  
was removed, acidified with 6M HCl and extracted with  
35 3 x 100 mL aliquots of ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate

- 58 -

extracts were combined and dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and concentrated to yield the anilide. The crude product 1.93 g (6.9%) was used in the next step without further purification. NMR and mass spectral analysis were consistent with the desired product:



To a 50 mL round bottom flask containing the anilide (200 mg, 0.76 mmol) dissolved in dry THF (20 mL) was added N-methylmorpholine (0.092 mL, 0.85 mmol) and isobutylchloroformate (0.110 mL, 0.85 mmol). The mixture was allowed to stir for 10 minutes, after which time a solution containing hydroxylamine hydrochloride (58.2 mg, 0.85 mmol), ethanol (10 mL) and 5% sodium hydroxide (0.94 mL) was added. After a further 10 minutes the THF was removed *in vacuo* and the residue taken up into 100 mL of 1M HCl and extracted with 3 x 30 mL aliquots of dichloromethane. The organic extracts were combined, dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and concentrated, yielding 130 mg of crude material, which was purified by reverse phase HPLC to give 15 mg (7.1%) of the desired hydroxamic acid:



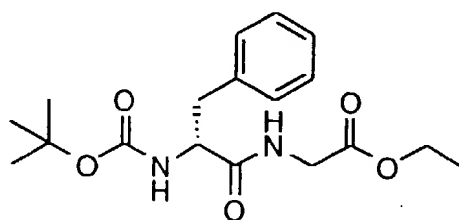
25

#### Example 15      Synthesis of Peptidic Analogue (A)

To a stirring solution of Boc-Phenylalanine (1g, 3.77mmol) and glycine ethyl ester hydrochloride (1.16g, 8.29mmol) in dichloromethane (20mL) was added benzotriazol-1-yloxy-tris(dimethylamino)phosphonium hexafluorophosphate (BOP) (1.84g, 4.17mmol) followed by N-methylmorpholine

- 59 -

(0.796mL, 8.29mmol). After 15 minutes the mixture was added to a 100mL separating funnel and extracted with 3 x 30mL 1M HCl and 3 x 30mL saturated sodium bicarbonate. The organic layer was run through a plug of silica gel, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to yield the protected dipeptide 910mg (81.3%) which was carried through to the next step without further purification. NMR and mass spectral analysis was consistent with the desired product:



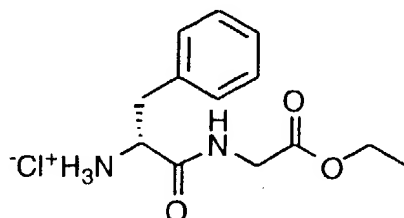
10

To a stirring solution of the deprotected dipeptide (433 mg, 1.51 mmol) as prepared above and p-chlorobenzoic acid (521 mg, 3.33 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added BOP (1.47 g, 3.33 mmol) followed by N-methylmorpholine (0.725 mL, 7.55 mmol). After 60 minutes the DMF was removed *in vacuo*, and the residue dissolved in dichloromethane (40 mL) and extracted with 3 x 30 mL 1M HCl and 3 x 30 mL saturated sodium bicarbonate. The organic layer was run through a plug of silica gel, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to yield the acylated dipeptide 574mg (97%) which was carried through to the next step without further purification. Mass spectral evidence confirmed the presence of the desired product.

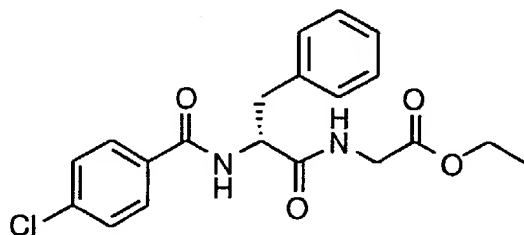
The protected dipeptide (530 mg, 1.51 mmol) as prepared above was stirred at room temperature with dioxane/HCl for 30 minutes. The dioxane/HCl was then removed *in vacuo* and the crude, deprotected dipeptide carried through to the next step without further purification. Mass spectral analysis confirmed successful deprotection.

30

- 60 -

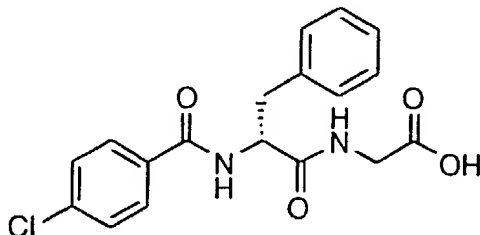


To a stirring solution of the deprotected dipeptide (433 mg, 1.51 mmol) as prepared above and  
5 p-chlorobenzoic acid (521 mg, 3.33 mmol) in DMF (3 mL) was added BOP (1.47 g, 3.33 mmol) followed by N-methylmorpholine (0.725 mL, 7.55 mmol). After 60 minutes the DMF was removed *in vacuo*, and the residue dissolved in dichloromethane (40 mL) and extracted with 3 x 30 mL 1M HCl  
10 and 3 x 30 mL saturated sodium bicarbonate. The organic layer was run through a plug of silica gel, dried (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentrated to yield the acylated dipeptide 574 mg (97%) which was carried through to the next step without further purification. Mass spectral evidence confirmed the  
15 presence of the desired product:



20 The acylated dipeptide (574 mg, 1.49 mmol) as prepared above was allowed to stir in a solution of 50% THF/water containing lithium hydroxide (125 mg, 2.97 mmol) for 30 minutes. The THF was then removed *in vacuo* and water (40 mL) added to the residue. Following acidification with  
25 concentrated HCl, a white precipitate was filtered, dried and carried through to the next step without further

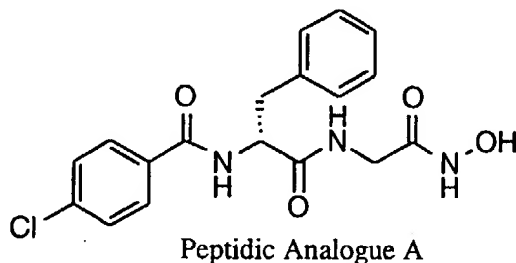
purification. Mass spectral evidence confirmed the presence of the free acid:



5

The acid (337 mg, 0.934 mmol) as prepared above was dissolved in dry THF 5 mL containing N-methylmorpholine (0.113 mL, 1.03 mmol) and isobutylchloroformate (0.133 mL, 1.03 mmol) and allowed to stir for 15 minutes. Following this, a solution containing hydroxylamine hydrochloride (130 mg, 1.87 mmol), THF (5 mL) and 5% sodium hydroxide (1.5 mL) was added in one shot and the resultant mixture allowed to stir for a further 15 minutes. The THF was then removed in vacuo and water (20 mL) added to the residue. Following acidification with 1M HCl, a white precipitated was filtered which, following flash chromatography (20% dichloromethane/ethyl acetate), yielded the desired peptidic analogue A. The structure and purity of the product were confirmed by NMR and mass spectrometry.

20



#### Example 16     Antiparasite Activity

25

The activity of the compounds of the invention against unicellular parasites of three different types was examined. The organisms selected were *Giardia duodenalis*

- 62 -

(also known as *Giardia lamblia*), *Trichomonas vaginalis* and *Plasmodium falciparum*.

*Giardia duodenalis* organisms were grown in TYI/S culture medium supplemented with 10% FCS, with and without  
5 drugs at various concentrations. One of the *Giardia* strains, WBIB-M3, was a metronidazole-resistant strain, and was maintained in medium containing 36  $\mu$ M metronidazole. The minimal lethal dose (MLC) was assayed as the lowest  
10 concentration of drug at which no live parasites were present when the cultures were maintained for several days. The results are shown in Table 8.



Table 8  
Activity of Differentiating Agents Against  
*Giardia duodenalis* and *Trichomonas vaginalis* in Culture

Strain	ABHA	AAHA	TSA	MW2796	MW2996	Metronidazole
<i>Giardia</i> BRIS/83/HEPU/106	200*	>100	0.2	35	350	-
<i>Giardia</i> WB-1B	200	-	-	-	-	<100
<i>Giardia</i> WB1B-M3#	100	-	-	-	-	>>100
<i>Trichomonas</i> BRIS/92/STD/F1623#	300	-	-	-	>350	-

\* Doses are given in µg/ml, and are the minimal lethal dose (MLC)

# Drug resistant strains maintained on metronidazole

- Not tested

It is evident from the table that ABHA was effective against all three strains of *Giardia* and against *Trichomonas*, with the MLC being even less for the metronidazole-resistant strain than for the wild-type strains. Of the other compounds of the invention tested, AAHA had an MLC of the same order of magnitude as that of ABHA, while that for MW2996 was higher. However, the MLC for MW2796 was much lower. TSA, which was used as a further comparison, had a particularly low MLC.

To test *in vivo* activity against *Giardia*, three day old suckling mice were injected with *Giardia duodenalis* strain 106, using a dose of  $10^5$  trophozoocytes in 15  $\mu$ l PBS pH 7.3. Mice were given drugs orally on days 7 and 8 after injections, using 250  $\mu$ g of ABHA or SBHA, and 265  $\mu$ g of metronidazole. *Giardia* were harvested at day 9 for the controls and day 10 for the test mice. Small intestines of mice infected with *Giardia* were excised, stripped longitudinally, kept in ice-cold PBS for 30 minutes, vortexed vigorously and parasites then counted by haemocytometer. As shown in Table 9, both ABHA and SBHA were effective at killing the *Giardia* parasites in the gut. In view of the fact that the dose and treatment regimen was probably not optimal, these agents compared more than favourably with metronidazole, which is conventionally used in therapy against these parasites.

Table 9

Treatment of Mice to Protect Against *Giardia duodenalis*

Treatment	Number of Parasites Recovered from the Gut Measured on Day 10
Controls	$2.8 \pm 3.88 \times 10^5/\text{ml}$
metronidazole	$3.56 \pm 2.26 \times 10^5/\text{ml}$
SBHA	0/ml (estimate of detection level $<5 \times 10^5/\text{ml}$ )
ABHA	$6.67 \pm 6.24 \times 10^3/\text{ml}$

To assess activity *in vitro* against *Plasmodium falciparum*, the causative organism of the most severe form of malaria, serial dilutions of malaria trophozoocytes were grown in red blood cells in the presence and absence of drug and in the presence of  $^3\text{H}$ -hypoxanthine for 48 hr at 37°C. In one group of experiments, parasites resistant to conventional therapy with pyrimethamine were used. The red cells were then harvested, and the percent inhibition of parasite growth calculated from the degree of  $^3\text{H}$ -hypoxanthine incorporation. The results are shown in Table 10. The values represent the amount of drug required to kill 50% of the parasite, when compared to untreated controls.

15

Table 10  
Activity of Differentiating Agents Against  
*Plasmodium falciparum*

DRUGS	STRAIN		
	Normal		Drug Resistant
	Expt 1	Expt 2	
TSA	35 ng/ml	15 ng/ml	35 ng/ml
Butyrate	0.8 mM	2.5 mM	
HMBA	1.25 mM		
AAHA	<2.3 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
ABHA	<7 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	7 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	7 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
SBHA		1.5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	1.5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
Parachlorobenzoyl-L-phenylalanine-glycine-hydroxamic acid		40 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	30 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
Salicylic Hydroxamate		75 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	70 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
MW2796		3 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	2 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
MW2996		>100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	>100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$
Desferrioxamine		30 $\mu\text{M}$	10 $\mu\text{M}$
Pyrimethamine		0.025 $\mu\text{M}$	> 0.05 mM

- 66 -

It is clear that malaria parasites were also highly sensitive to the compounds of the invention. Again it can be seen that strains resistant to conventional anti-malarial agents remained sensitive to the compounds of the invention. The best effect with a drug stable in cell culture was seen with SBHA. Although TSA, which was also used as a comparison, was effective in the ng/ml range *in vitro*, it would be expected to be inactive *in vivo*, as found in the anti-tumour studies.

To test *in vivo* efficacy, the compound of the invention giving the best result in Table 10, SBHA, was tested for its ability to protect mice against infection with *Plasmodium falciparum*. Mice were injected i.p. with a mixture of rings, trophozoocytes and schizonts ( $10^6$  in 200 $\mu$ l PBS) and then two hours later separate groups were given 4 mg SBHA or 0.2 mg chloroquine in 0.5 ml PBS, or PBS alone (control). A second set of groups was given SBHA at the same dose at 48 hr after infection. Treatment was continued twice daily at 12 hr intervals for 3 days in all groups, and parasitaemia was scored at day 10, when the control mice had to be euthanased. The results are shown in Table 11. These clearly show that SBHA given either 2 hr or 48 hr after infection had efficacy comparable to that of chloroquine, a very potent conventional anti-malarial agent.

Table 11

Protective Activity Against *Plasmodium falciparum* in Mice

Group	Percentage Parasitaemia in Red Blood Cells*
Controls	12.6
Chloroquine	0.2
SBHA 2 hr post-infection	0.3
SBHA 48 hr post-infection	0.2

## DISCUSSION

ABHA was considerably more potent against human melanoma cells than HMBA. More surprising, however, was the high degree of selectivity for tumour cells compared  
5 with normal cells. This difference did not result simply from differences in the rate of cell cycling.

A wide range of tumour cell types was sensitive to ABHA and AAHA, indicating that differentiation mechanisms, which are tissue-specific, are unlikely to be  
10 major targets for these agents. Since activity was demonstrated against transformed keratinocytes (Colo 16 and HAcac), the invention is applicable to the treatment of conditions involving hyperproliferating keratinocytes, such as psoriasis and solar keratoses and the like.

15 Furthermore, the ABHA-sensitive tumour line MM96L showed major differences from a resistant line in the transcriptional activation of certain genes, particularly metallothionein and SphI.

Enhanced dendritic morphology, as shown in  
20 Figure 1, was the only evidence found for induction of differentiation by ABHA. For melanoma cells, this may relate to their neural crest origin. In the pigmentation pathway, loss of the TRP-1 and HMB-45 proteins and a decrease in tyrosinase activity indicated that ABHA acted  
25 as a dedifferentiating agent. That this occurs at least in part at the transcriptional level was suggested by loss of TRP-1 reporter activity and, in previous studies of HMBA (Sturm et al, 1994; Vijayasaradhi et al, 1995; Vijayasaradhi et al, 1991), loss of TRP-1 message and  
30 protein. The SV40 promoter/enhancer responds to TPA, and thus an AP-1 site in this construct may be affected by ABHA. The variety of response elements in these promoters and in the HIV-LTR sequence (Edwards, 1994), coupled with  
35 lack of specificity for activation in sensitive cells, indicates that ABHA may exert many effects which are not associated with cell selectivity.

- 68 -

Some primary target(s) of the compounds of the invention have been identified. A range of possibilities needs to be considered. Hydroxamic acids have the ability to chelate zinc and other metal ions, but matrix metalloproteases are not inhibited by these compounds. Furthermore, the metallothionein promoter response did not result from assisted uptake of zinc from the culture medium, because treatment with ABHA before zinc induction was also effective. The metallothionein reporter activation by ABHA in melanoma cells may result from changes in chromatin structure, as suggested for the much less potent differentiating agent butyrate (Liu et al, 1992), enhancing transcription of a range of genes including *c-fos*, but repressing TRP-1 and genes activated by p53. Demethylation of DNA enhances metallothionein promoter activity in certain cells (Biard et al, 1992), but was precluded in this study by the rapid transcriptional response to ABHA and the insensitivity of this response to 5-azacytidine. The metallothionein promoter response parallels the survival difference between HeLa and melanoma cells, and, while not necessarily involved in selective inhibition of cell growth, may help to identify the types of molecules targeted by the compounds of the invention. This promoter contains GC-rich motifs resembling Sp-1 binding sites; thus one or more steps in such a signal transduction pathway may be aberrant in melanoma cells. Metallothionein itself may play several roles in cellular signalling, including metal ion homeostasis (Hamer, 1986) and regulation of PKC (Ou and Ebadi, 1992), perhaps leading to alteration in regulators of the cell cycle.

As found in murine erythroleukemia cells treated with HMBA (Kiyokawa et al, 1994), ABHA induced a small elevation of pRB in melanoma cells treated for 12 hr. More significantly, and consistent with the observed G1 block in MM96L cells, pRB persisted at later times whereas ppRB was lost, in contrast to murine erythroleukemic cells, where

- 69 -

ppRB levels increased (Kiyokawa et al, 1994). Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor p21 (WAF-1) activity is associated with pRB hypophosphorylation, and is induced by p53-dependent and -independent pathways, which may be aberrant in melanoma and other transformed cells (Vidal et al, 1995). Activation of other types of gene could indirectly influence the outcome of treatment. The immune response is considered to be an important aspect of defence against cancer, and we have found enhancement of expression of MHC class I molecules, an increase which, although slight, may assist in complete elimination of tumour cells.

While not wishing to be bound by any proposed mechanism for the observed beneficial effect, we have found that the compounds of the invention inhibit histone deacetylation, thereby elevating levels of acetylated histones, which can interact with DNA to promote or inhibit gene expression and modulate DNA transcription. In contrast to the disclosure of WO 93/07148 and WO 95/31977, the compounds useful in the present invention, including ABHA, have minimal capacity to induce differentiation in neoplastic cells.

It is likely that all of the compounds of the invention are structural mimics of acetylated lysine ( $\text{RNHC}(\text{COR}')-(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{-NH-COCH}_3$ ), in various forms which enable the compounds to have high affinity for histone deacetylase(s), but render the compounds cell-permeable and resistant to the acetylation/deacetylation reaction. In particular, we find that the transcription of *SphI*-like promoter-driven genes is dramatically activated by the compounds. Such changes may be necessary for cell killing, but not necessarily for selectivity. Regarding the latter, we have shown that selective cytotoxicity to tumour cells may be facilitated by low or aberrant expression of the protein RbAp48, and by lack of cell cycle checkpoints that protect normal cells. This suggests that the compounds of this invention can be used in combination with certain

known antiproliferative drugs to enhance the tumour selectivity of the latter. We also suggest that compounds of the present invention induce the expression of effector molecules that enhance the immune response against tumours *in vivo*, such as antigens of the major histocompatibility complex, and viral antigens in virus-related tumours, and we suggest that simultaneous treatment with IL-2 will overcome the down-regulation of IL-2 expression by histone deacetylation inhibitors that has been reported by Takahashi *et al* (1996) and thus enhance the *in vivo* anticancer action of these compounds.

Xenografts of the melanoma MM96L cells were significantly inhibited by daily treatments with 4 mg/kg ABHA, AAHA or SBHA, the first drugs of any kind to show significant activity against this cell line. Although this is a relatively high dose, other differentiating agents such as butyrate have been used safely at similar levels in the clinic to treat children with sickle cell anemia. MM96L cells which were established from a metastasis, have a mutator phenotype, and are resistant to current anticancer agents *in vitro* and *in vivo*, represent a rigorous yet probably realistic model for testing new agents. Cells cultured from the small mouse tumours that survived treatment by ABHA were still sensitive to this drug. This suggests that even higher doses of ABHA could be given, since there were no overt signs of toxicity or side effects. AAHA, which was administered in DMSO because of its poor solubility in aqueous phosphate buffered saline, and SBHA had even better activity. Metabolism of TSA, detected for the first time in this study, is unlikely to explain the resistance of NFF cells to this agent, because the exposure to drug was limited to 24 hr. Thus, although TSA is widely used as a potent and specific inhibitor of histone deacetylases *in vitro*, metabolically stable inhibitors may be required in order to obtain useful activities *in vivo*.



Acetylation of histone H4 was found to be induced by ABHA and AAHA, presumably by inhibition of histone deacetylase activity, as shown previously for TSA. This could be expected to profoundly alter gene expression, and  
5 may be a necessary condition for cell toxicity to occur. However, the present comparison of acetylation and deacetylation rates in intact, sensitive and resistant cells failed to find any evidence that differences in H4 acetylation could be responsible for the differential  
10 toxicity of the compounds of the invention. It is possible that other histone modifications may be involved in selectivity, or that another type of drug target may be responsible.

We have identified RbAp48 as a protein closely  
15 associated with resistance to ABHA, both in individual cell lines and in hybrids between sensitive and resistant cells. The normal role of RbAp48 in mammalian cells has not yet been defined. The RbAp48 counterpart in yeast inhibits the Ras-cAMP pathway, possibly via inhibition of PKA. RbAp48  
20 could also be involved in scaffolding or matrix attachment of chromatin to DNA (MAR regions), shielding genes from neighbouring elements. Since the histone deacetylase inhibitor trapoxin binds RbAp48, RbAp48 is a candidate target of the compounds of the invention. In sensitive  
25 cells, the depleted level of full-length RbAp48 and/or competition with a truncated or altered form may lead to loss of function of wild type RbAp48 and consequently, possibly in conjunction with histone hyperacetylation, may compromise the viability of cycling cells. In contrast, as  
30 indicated by the cell cycle studies and selective inhibition of DNA synthesis, normal cells are checked in G2/M until the drug is removed, and can then safely continue in the cycle. These findings justify the use of ABHA, AAHA, SBHA and their derivatives in combination  
35 chemotherapy, to provide tumour specificity to cycle-specific drugs such as antimetabolites, including cytosine

arabinoside, 5-fluorouracil, methotrexate, chlorodeoxyadenosine, etoposide, taxol (paclitaxel), and the like, by protecting normal proliferating cells, particularly in the bone marrow and gut. Regulation of apoptosis and cell division itself may be highly sensitive to the changes in nucleosomal structure and charge that result from untimely histone hyperacetylation, and to presumptive alterations in chromatin structure arising from an altered RbAp48. The same considerations may also apply to parasites.

Overall, our results suggest that in addition to greatly increased potency, the compounds of the invention have a more specific range of cellular targets than reported in the prior art for differentiating agents, resulting in selectivity for transformed and cancerous cells. Furthermore, our identification of metallothionein and *SphI* transcription activation, loss of G2/M blocking and reduction in expression of full-length RbAp48 have provided markers of this selectivity, which can be exploited in the treatment and prognosis of cancer.

The loss of contact inhibition in neoplastic and dysplastic cells and the changes in cell morphology induced by the compounds of the invention indicate that cell surface phenomena such as adhesion molecules may also play a role in their selective action.

Advantages of the compounds of the invention over previously known anti-cancer agents are:

1. Unusually high selectivity for transformed and cancerous human cells compared to normal cells.
2. Lack of inhibition of growth of normal cells, at concentrations that inhibit transformed and cancerous cells, unlike other monohydroxamates that are known to have anti-tumour activity but are non-selective cytotoxins (Wang et al, 1994).

3. Little if any development of resistance by the cancer cells; human melanoma cells are still sensitive to the compounds of the invention after at least 10 cycles of treatment. In our experience with most other anticancer drugs, drug resistance is developed after only a few treatments.
4. No rapid metabolism to inactive forms by cultured cells, in contrast to other histone deacetylase inhibitors.
5. Activity *in vivo* against human tumours in a well-recognized mouse xenograft model.
6. No obvious side effects in mice, even after high daily doses for 6 weeks.
7. Chemical structures that can be readily modified to obtain further derivatives.
8. Upregulation of molecules that might enhance an antitumour immune response.
8. The mechanism of action is more specific at the molecular level than current drugs, and is capable of exploiting the loss of cell cycle check points specifically in tumour cells.

Advantages of the compounds of the invention over current agents for the treatment of parasites include:

1. Lack of toxicity to normal human cells, as detailed above, with a consequent higher therapeutic margin of safety.
2. Activity against parasites, including *Plasmodium falciparum*, which have become resistant to current agents.
3. Stability *in vivo*, confirmed by *in vivo* activity.
4. No evidence of phototoxic side reactions.

It will be apparent to the person skilled in the art that while the invention has been described in some

detail for the purposes of clarity and understanding,  
various modifications and alterations to the embodiments  
and methods described herein may be made without departing  
from the scope of the inventive concept disclosed in this  
5 specification.

References cited herein are listed on the  
following pages, and are incorporated herein by this  
reference.

REFERENCES

- Andreef, M., Young, C., Clarkson, B., Fetten, J.,  
Rifkind, R.A. and Marks, P.A.
- 5 Blood, 1988 72 18
- Beckett, R.P., Davidson, A.H., Drummond, A.H. Huxley, P.  
and Whittaker, M.  
Drug Design Technol., 1996 1 16-26
- 10 Biard, D.S., Cordier, A. and Sarasin, A.  
Exp. Cell. Res., 1992 200 263-271
- Birkedal-Hansen
- 15 J. Periodontol., 1993 64 474-484
- Breslow, R., Jursic, B., Yan, Z.F., Friedman, E., Leng, L.,  
Ngo, L., Rifkind, R.A. and Marks, P.A.  
Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., U.S.A., 1991 88 5542
- 20 Brown, P.D.  
Adv. Enzyme Regul., 1995 35 293
- Darkin-Rattray, S.J., Gurnett, A.M., Myers, R.W.,
- 25 Dulski, P.M., Crumley, T.M., Alloco, J.J., Cannova, C.,  
Meinke, P.T., Colletti, S.L., Bednarek, M.A., Singh, S.B.,  
Goetz, M.A., Dombrowski, A.W., Polishook, J.D.,  
Schmatz, D.M.  
Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 1996 93 13143-13147.
- 30 Edwards, D.R.  
Trends Pharm. Sci., 1994 15 239-244, 1994

- Egorin, M.J., Sigman, L.M., VanEcho, D.A., Forrest, A., Whitacre, Y. and Aisner, J.  
Cancer Res., 1987 47 617
- 5 Funk, W.D., Pak, D.T., Karas, R.H., Wright, W.E. and Shay, J.W.  
Mol. Cell. Biol., 1992 12 2866-2871
- Hamer, D.H.  
10 Ann. Rev. Biochem., 1986 55 913-951
- Kijima, M., Yoshida, M., Sugita, K., Horinouchi, S., Beppu, T  
J. Biol. Chem., 1993, 268 22429-22435.
- 15 Kiyokawa, H., Richon, V.M., Rifkind, R.A. and Marks, P.A.  
Mol. Cell Biol., 1994 14 7195-7203
- Liu, J., McKim, J.M. Jr, Liu, Y.P., Klaassen, C.D.  
20 In Vitro, 1992 28A 320-326
- Lofas, S. and Johnsson, B.  
J. Chem. Soc., Chem. Commun., 1990 21 1526.
- 25 McEwan, M., Parsons, P.G. and Moss, D.J.,  
J. Invest. Dermatol., 1988 90 515-519
- McGeehan, G.M., Becherer, J.D., Bast, R.C., Boyer, C.M., Champion, B., Connolly, K.M., Conway, J.G., Furdon, P.,  
30 Karp, S., Kidao, S., McElroy, A.B., Nichols, J., Pryzwansky, K.M., Schoene, F., Sekut, L., Truesdale, A., Verghese, M. Warner, J, and Ways, J.P.  
Nature, 1994 370 558-561
- 35 Marks, P.A., Richon, V.M., Kiyokawa, H. and Rifkind, R.A.  
Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., U.S.A., 1994 91 10251-10254

- Marks, P.A. and Rifkind, R.A.  
Biologic Therapy of Cancer, eds. De Vita, V.T., Hellman, S.  
and Rosenberg, S., Lippincott, Philadelphia, pp 754-762,  
5 1989
- Ou., C.Z. and Ebadi, M.J.  
Pineal Res., 1992 12 17-26
- 10 Parsons, P.G., Favier, D., McEwan, M., Takahashi, H.,  
Jimbow, K. and Ito, S.  
Melanoma Res., 1991 1 97-104
- Parsons, P.G., Hansen, C., Fairlie, D.P., West, M.L.,  
15 Danoy, P., Sturm, R.A., Dunn, I.S., Pedley, J. and  
Ablett, E.  
Biochem. Pharmacol., 1997 53 1719-1724
- Richon, V.M., Emiliani, S., Verdin, E., Webb, Y., Breslow,  
20 R., Rifkind, R.A. and Marks, P.A.  
Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 1998 95 3003-3007
- Richon, V.M., Rifkind, R.A. and Marks, P.A.  
Cell Growth Diff., 1992 3 413-420  
25
- Richon, V.M., Webb, Y., Merger, R., Sheppard, T.,  
Jursic, B., Ngo, L., Civoli, F., Breslow, R., Rifkind, R.A.  
and Marks, P.A.  
Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 1996 93 5705-5708  
30
- Rockwell, A., Melden, M., Copeland, R.A., Hardman, K.,  
Decicco, C.P., and DeGrado, W.F.  
J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1996 118 10337-10338

Rueben, R.C., Wife, R.L., Breslow, R., Rifkind, R.A., and Marks, P.A.

Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci., U.S.A., 1976 73 862

- 5 Sturm, R.A., O'Sullivan, B.J., Thomson, J.A.F.,  
Jamshidi, N., Pedley, J. and Parsons, P.G.  
Pigm. Cell Res., 1994 71 235-240

Takahashi, H. and Parsons, P.G.

- 10 Pigm. Cell Res., 1990 3 223-232

Takahashi, I., Miyaji, H., Yoshida, T., Sato, S. and Mizukami, T.

J. Antibiotics, 1996 49 453-457

15

Taunton, J., Hassig, C.A. and Schreiber, S.L.  
Science, 1996 272 408-412

Taunton, J., Collins, J.L. and Schreiber, S.L.

- 20 J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1996 118 10412-10422.

Taylor, G.O. and Dunn, I.S.

DNA Sequencing, 1994 5 9-15

- 25 Thomson, J.A.F., Murphy, K., Baker, E., Sutherland, G.R.,  
Parsons, P.G. and Sturm, R.A.  
Oncogene, 1995 11 691-700.

Vidal, M.J., Loganzo, F., de Oliveira, A.R., Hayward, N.K.  
30 and Albino, A.P.

Melanoma Res., 1995 5 243-250

Vijayasaradhi, S., Doskoch, P.M. and Houghton, A.N.

Exp. Cell Res., 1991 196 233-240

35

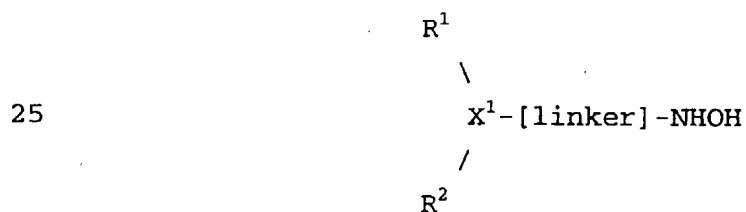


- Vijayasadaradhi, S., Doskoch, P.M., Wolchok, J. and  
Houghton, A.N.  
J. Invest. Dermatol., 1995 105 113-119
- 5 Wang, X., Fu, X., Brown, P.D., Crimmin, M.J. and  
Hoffman, R.M.  
Cancer Res., 1994 54 4726-4728
- Wolffe, A.P.  
10 Science, 1996 272 371-372.
- Wolffe, A.P. and Pruss, D.  
Cell, 1996 84 817-819.
- 15 Wong, S.S.C., Sturm, R.A., Michel, J., Zhang, X.-M., Danoy,  
P.A.C., McGregor, K., Jacobs, J.J., Kaushal, A., Dong, Y.,  
Dunn, I.S. and Parsons, P.G.  
Biochem. Pharmacol., 1994 47 827-837
- 20 Young, C.W., Fanucchi, M.P., Walsh, T.D., Baltzer, L.,  
Yaldae, S., Stevens, Y.W., Gordon, C., Tong, W., Rifkind,  
R.A. and Marks, P.A.,  
Cancer Res., 1988 48 7304

CLAIMS:

1. A method of treatment of cancer, comprising the step of administration of an effective amount of a nitrogen-containing compound, a compound structurally related thereto, or a derivative thereof, to a mammal in need of such treatment, said compound having selective cytotoxicity for neoplastic cells compared to normal cells, and having minimal or absent ability to induce differentiation in neoplastic cells,
- 5 and in which the compound additionally has one or more of the following activities:
- a) inhibition of growth in cell culture of at least one of the following human tumour cell lines: melanoma MM418cl, cervical HeLa, melanoma A2058, ovarian
  - 15 JAM, and lymphoma Mutu;
  - b) inhibition of growth in cell culture of transformed keratinocytes and melanocytes (Mel-SV);
  - c) inhibition of growth *in vivo* of human tumour cells in xenografted nude mice;
  - 20 d) inhibition of histone deacetylase, as measured by extent of hyperacetylation of histones;
  - e) induction of differences in protein expression by human tumour cells compared to normal human cells;
  - 25 f) selective killing of tumour cells in (a) without killing normal cells;
  - g) blocking of cell cycle progression of some sensitive tumour cells in the G1/S phase;
  - h) induction of apoptosis in tumour cells; and
  - 30 i) inhibition of DNA synthesis in normal but not in tumour cells.
2. A method according to Claim 1, in which the compound is a monohydroxamate or bishydroxamate compound, or a derivative thereof.
- 35 3. A method according to Claim 1, in which the compound is a cyclic peptide.

4. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, in which the compound has the ability to inhibit deacetylation of histones.
5. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, in which the compound additionally has the ability to enhance zinc-induced activity of the metallothionein Ia promoter, and/or activity of the *SphI*-containing promoter.
6. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 that is selectively toxic to cells that express low levels of full length RbAp48.
7. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, in which the cancer is a leukaemia, a lymphoma, a skin cancer, melanoma, ovarian cancer, cervical cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, endometrial cancer, lung cancer, gastric cancer, or colon cancer.
8. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, in which the mammal is a human.
9. A method according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, in which the compound is not acylaic bishydroxamic acid.
10. A hydroxamate or hydroxamic acid or derivative compound of general formula Ia , Ib or Ic:



Ia



Ib



Ic

in which  $X^1$  is a polar group chosen from among -  
 $C=O$ ;  $-COR^1$ ;  $-CF_2$ ;  $-CNH_2$ ;  $-CNR^1$ ;  $-SO_2-$ ;  $-P(O)(OH)-$ ;  $-C=S$ ;  
 $-CSR^1$ ;  $-C-COR^1$ ;  $-C-CONR^1R^2$ ; or  $-C-CH_2OH$ ; or either  $R^1$  or  $R^2$   
 is absent;

5  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are the same or different, and each is  
 independently selected from the group consisting of H; OH;  
 $NH_2$ ;  $NHOH$ ; substituted or unsubstituted, branched or  
 unbranched alkyl, alkenyl, alkylamino, alkyloxy or  
 arylalkyloxy; substituted or unsubstituted aryl, aryloxy or  
 10 pyridino; substituted or unsubstituted arylamino,  
 piperidino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylamino, pyridineamino,  
 9-purine-6-amine, and thiazoleamino; and

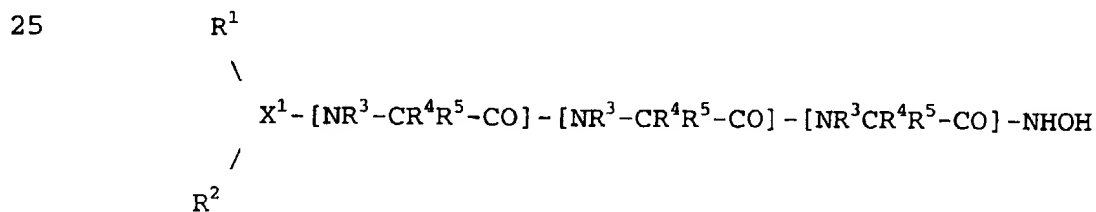
the linker is a group having a backbone of 5 to 9  
 atoms,

15 or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, ester or  
 derivative thereof,

in which the compound is not azelaic  
 bishydroxamic acid or a compound disclosed in International  
 Patent Publications No. WO 95/31977 or No. WO 93/07418.

20 11. A compound according to Claim 10, in which the  
 linker comprises one, two or three amino acids.

12. A compound according to Claim 11, in which the  
 compound is of formula II:



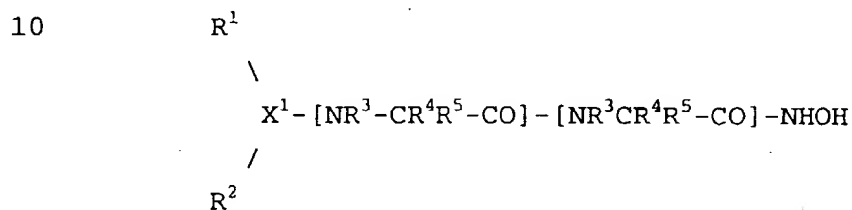
30 II

in which  $R^3$  is selected from the group consisting  
 of H; OH;  $NH_2$ ;  $NHOH$ ; substituted or unsubstituted, branched  
 or unbranched alkyl, alkenyl, alkylamino, alkyloxy or  
 35 arylalkyloxy; substituted or unsubstituted aryl, aryloxy or  
 pyridino; substituted or unsubstituted arylamino,

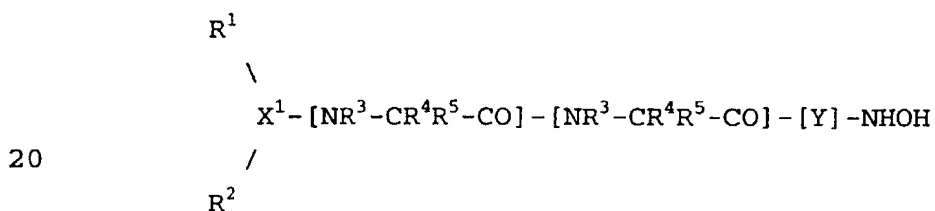
piperidino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylamino, pyridineamino, 9-purine-6-amine, and thiazoleamino, and

$R^4$  and  $R^5$  are the same or different, and is each independently selected from H, alkyl, aryl or a side-chain of a common or uncommon amino acid.

13. A compound according to Claim 10 or Claim 11, in which the linker comprises two amino acids, and the compound is of formula IIIa or IIIb:



15 IIIa

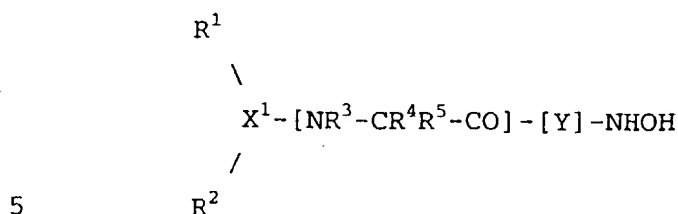


20 IIIb

in which  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are as defined in Claim 12, and Y is  $-CH=CH_2-CO$ ;  $-C(alkyl)=C(H \text{ or } alkyl)_2$ ;  $-C_6H_4-CO$ ;  $-CH(alkyl)-CH(alkyl)-CO$ ;  $-NR^6CH_2CH_2CO$ ;  $-NR^6C(alkyl)-C(H \text{ or } alkyl)-CO-$ ; or  $-NR^6-CH_6H_4-CO$ , where  $R^6$  is as defined above for  $R^3$ , and alkyl can be a linear or branched chain aliphatic group.

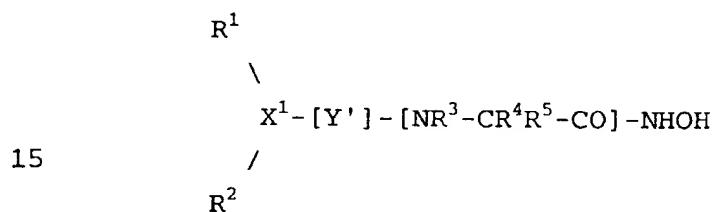
14. A compound according to Claim 10 or Claim 11, in which the linker comprises one amino acid, and the compound is of general formula IVa,

- 84 -



IVa

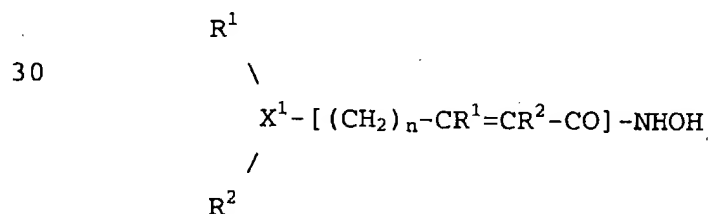
in which Y is as defined in Claim 13,  
 and R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are as defined in Claim 12,  
 or formula IVb,



IVb

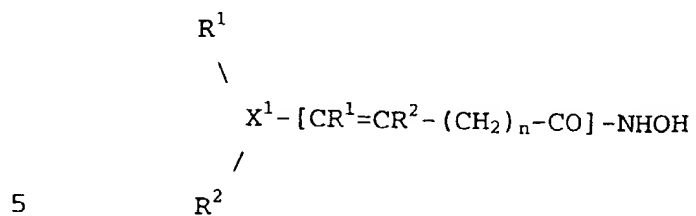
in which Y' is -CH=CH<sub>2</sub>-CO; -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, where n is an  
 integer from 1 to 6; -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>; -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>; -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO-;  
 -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-CO; C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>; C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-CH=CH<sub>2</sub>; -CH=CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>;  
 -CH(alkyl)-CH(alkyl); -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-CO; -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-CH=CH-CO;  
 -CH=CH-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-CO; or -CH(alkyl)-CH(alkyl)CO, and  
 R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are as defined in Claim 12.

15. A compound according to Claim 10, in which the  
 linker comprises 1, 2 or 3 double bonds, and the compound  
 is of formula Va, Vb, Vc, Vd Ve, Vf or Vg,

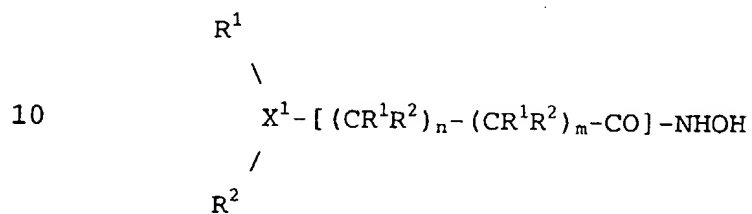


Va

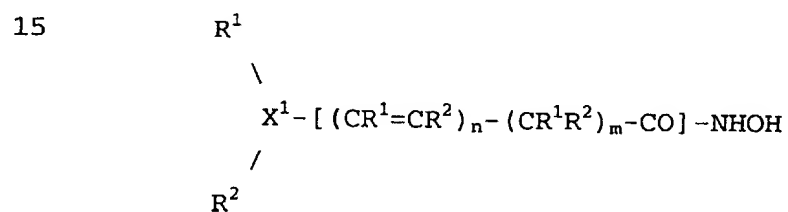
- 85 -



Vb

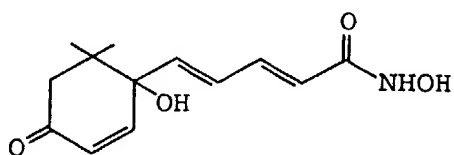


Vc



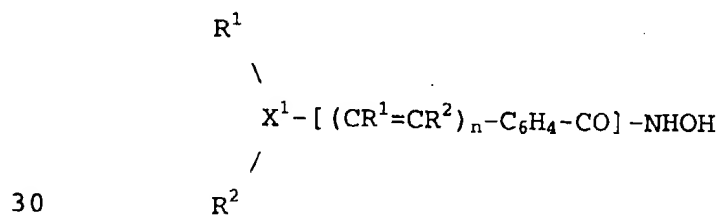
20

Vd



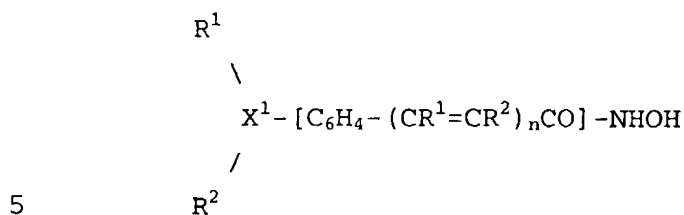
Ve

25



Vf

- 86 -



Vg

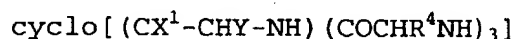
in which R1 and R2 may be the same or different,  
and are defined in Claim 10,

10 n and m is each independently an integer from 1  
to 6;

and in which the C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub> group is an aromatic ring,  
optionally substituted at the ortho-, meta- or para-  
position with a substituent selected from the group  
15 consisting of NO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub>, NMe<sub>2</sub>, Cl, F, SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, Me and alkyl.

16. A compound according to Claim 14, in which each  
of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is independently H, alkyl or aryl.

17. A compound according to Claim 10, in which the  
polar group X<sup>1</sup> forms part of a cyclic tetrapeptide of  
20 formula VI:



VI

25

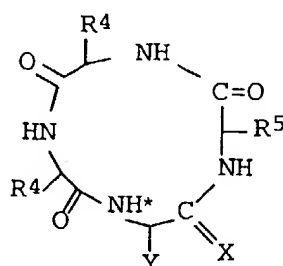
in which R<sup>4</sup>, X<sup>1</sup> and Y are as defined in Claims 9  
and 10 respectively, or Y may be (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>COMe, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>COMe,  
(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>CO-alkyl, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>CO-aryl, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>CO-NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>6</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> and  
R<sup>6</sup> are the same or different, and R<sup>6</sup> is as defined in

30 Claim 13.

18. A compound according to Claim 17, of general  
formula VII:



- 87 -

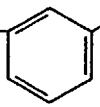


VII

5 in which each of  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are the same or different, and are as defined in Claim 12, or may be thioproline, hydroxyproline, pipecolic acid, or decahydroisoquinoline, and

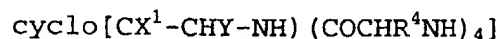
10 the stereochemical configuration at the position marked by \* may be R or S (L or D).

19. A compound according to Claim 17, in which each of  $R^3$  and  $R^6$  is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, aryl,  $(CH_2)_5CHO$ ;

$CH=CH-$    $-COMe$ , and  $CH=CH-CH=CH-CH_2-COMe$ ; and

15 one or more of the four amino acids is optionally N-alkylated with an aliphatic alkyl group.

20. A compound according to Claim 10, in which the polar group  $X^1$  forms part of a cyclic pentapeptide, and the compound is of formula VIII,



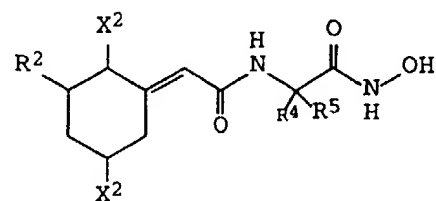
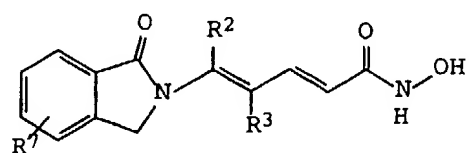
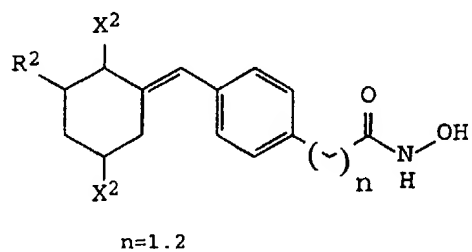
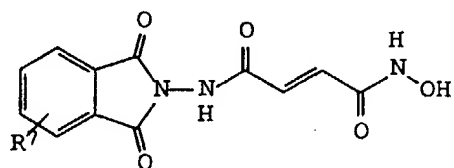
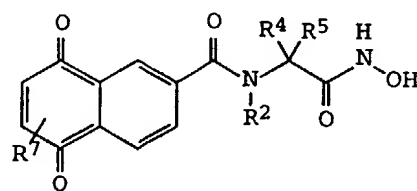
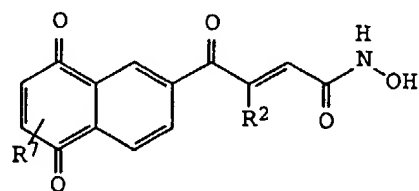
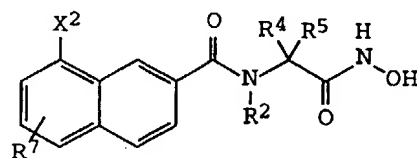
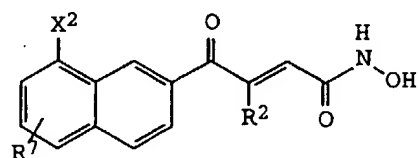
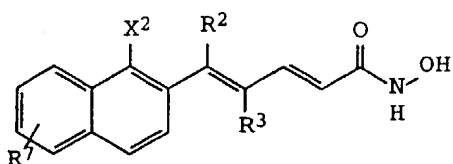
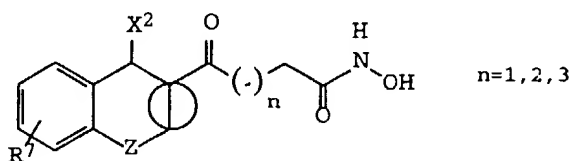
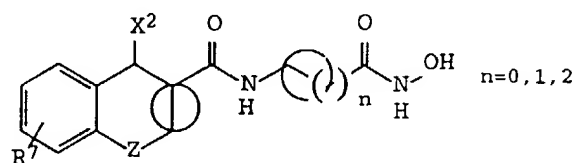
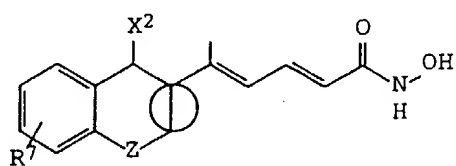
VIII

25 in which  $X^1$  and Y are as defined in Claims 10 and 12 respectively.

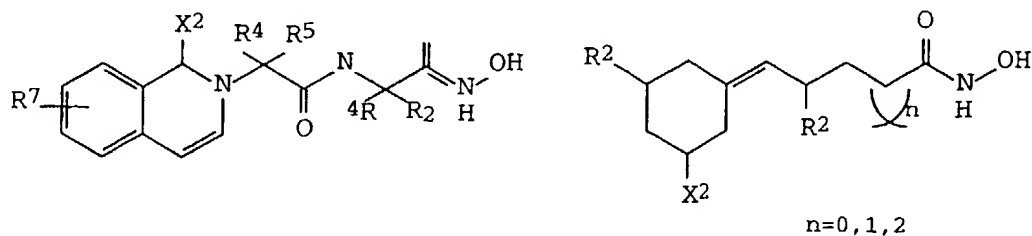
21. A compound according to Claim 10, which is a cyclic molecule selected from the group consisting of

quinolines, isoquinolines, tetrahydroquinolines and decahydroquinolines.

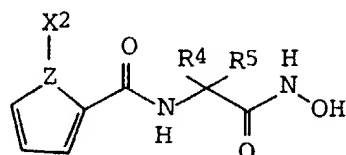
22. A compound according to Claim 10, selected from the group consisting of



- 90 -



and



in which Z is O, S, NH, N-alkyl; NO; SO; CO;

C-R<sup>7</sup>;

5           X<sup>2</sup> is O, OH, aldehyde, ketone, CF<sub>3</sub>; NO<sub>2</sub>; NO; SH;  
S; NH; NH<sub>2</sub>; CO<sub>2</sub>H; CONH<sub>2</sub>; CO<sub>2</sub>(alkyl) or CONH(alkyl);

          R<sup>7</sup> is one or more substituents selected from the  
group consisting of H; OH; OMe; NO<sub>2</sub>; Cl; Br; F; (Me)<sub>2</sub>N; CN;  
NH<sub>2</sub>; NH(alkyl); N(alkyl)<sub>2</sub>; SO<sub>3</sub>H; SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>; alkyl CF<sub>3</sub>; O(alkyl);  
10   SH and S(alkyl), and in which

          each bond depicted as an alkene bond may  
alternatively be a single bond, and each single bond marked  
with a circle may alternatively be a double bond.

23.       A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to  
15   22, which has selective cytotoxicity for neoplastic cells  
compared to normal cells, and has minimal or absent ability  
to induce differentiation in neoplastic cells, and one or  
more of

- a) the ability to inhibit deacetylation of
- 20   histones,
- b) the ability to enhance zinc-induced activity  
of the metallothionein Ia promoter,
- c) the ability to enhance activity of the SphI  
promoter.
- 25       d) the ability to be selectively toxic to cells  
that have low levels of full length RbAp48.

- 91 -

24. A compound according to any one of Claims 10 to 23, which is selectively toxic for two or more types of tumour cells.

25. A composition comprising a compound according to  
5 any one of Claims 10 to 24, or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier.

26. A method of treatment of cancer, comprising the step of administering an effective amount of a compound  
10 accordingly to any one of Claims 10 to 24 to a subject in need of such treatment.

27. A method of treatment of a protozoal parasite infection, comprising the step of administering an effective dose of the step of administering an effective  
15 dose of a compound according to any one of Claims 10 to 24, or of ABHA or a related compound as defined herein, to a subject in need of such treatment.

28. A method according to Claim 27, in which the parasite is a member of a genus selected from the group  
20 consisting of *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Trichomonas*, *Histomonas*, *Plasmodium*, *Toxoplasma*, *Trypanosoma*, *Babesia*, *Balantidium*, *Naegleria*, *Entamoeba* and *Eimeria*.

29. A method according to Claim 28, in which the parasite is a member of the genera *Giardia*, *Trichomonas* or  
25 *Plasmodium*.

30. A method according to Claim 29, in which the parasite is *Giardia duodenalis*, or *Plasmodium falciparum*.

31. A method of treatment of a keratinous hyperplastic or dysplastic condition, comprising the step  
30 of administering an effective dose of the step of administering an effective dose of a compound according to any one of Claims 8 to 24, or of ABHA or a related compound as defined herein, to a subject in need of such treatment.

32. A method according to Claim 30, in which the  
35 condition is psoriasis, leukoplakia, or solar keratosis.

- 92 -

33. A method of identification of cancers which are particularly amenable to treatment by the method of any one of Claims 1 to 9, comprising the step of detecting abnormal levels or absence of full length RbAp48 in a sample of the cancer.

34. A method according to Claim 33, which comprises the step of subjecting a histological section of the tumour, obtained via biopsy or at the time of surgical excision of the tumour, to immunohistochemical analysis with an antibody directed to RbAp48.

35. A method of enhancing the selectivity of treatment of a cancer or of a parasite infection with a compound according to any one of Claims 10 to 24, or with ABHA or a related compound as defined herein, comprising the step of administering a nucleic acid sequence complementary to a nucleic acid sequence encoding RbAp48 or an SphI-containing sequence to the subject to be treated.

36. A method according to Claim 35, in which the complementary sequence is targeted to tumour cells or to parasites.

37. A method of increasing the proportion of tumour cells recognised by the immune system, comprising the step of administering a compound according to any one of Claims 10 to 24, or ABHA or a related compound as defined herein, to a subject suffering from the tumour thereby to increase the proportion of tumour cells expressing MHC Class I molecules.

38. Use of a compound according to any one of Claims 10 to 24 in the treatment of cancer.

39. Use of a compound according to any one of Claims 10 to 24, or of ABHA or a related compound as defined herein, in the treatment of a protozoal infection.

40. Use according to Claim 39, in which the protozoal infection is caused by a parasite which is a member of a genus selected from the group consisting of *Giardia*,

- 93 -

*Cryptosporidium, Trichomonas, Histomonas, Plasmodium, Toxoplasma, Trypanosoma, Babesia, Balantidium, Naegleria, Entamoeba and Eimeria.*

41. Use according to Claim 39, in which the parasite  
5 is a member of the genera *Giardia, Trichomonas* or *Plasmodium*.

42. Use of a compound according to any one of  
Claims 10 to 24, or of ABHA or a related compound as  
defined herein, in the manufacture of a medicament for the  
10 treatment of a protozoal infection.

43. Use of a compound according to any one of  
Claims 10 to 24, or of ABHA or a related compound as  
defined herein, in the manufacture of a medicament for the  
treatment of a hyperplastic or dysplastic condition.

15 44. Use according to Claim 43, in which the condition  
is psoriasis, leukoplakia or solar keratosis.

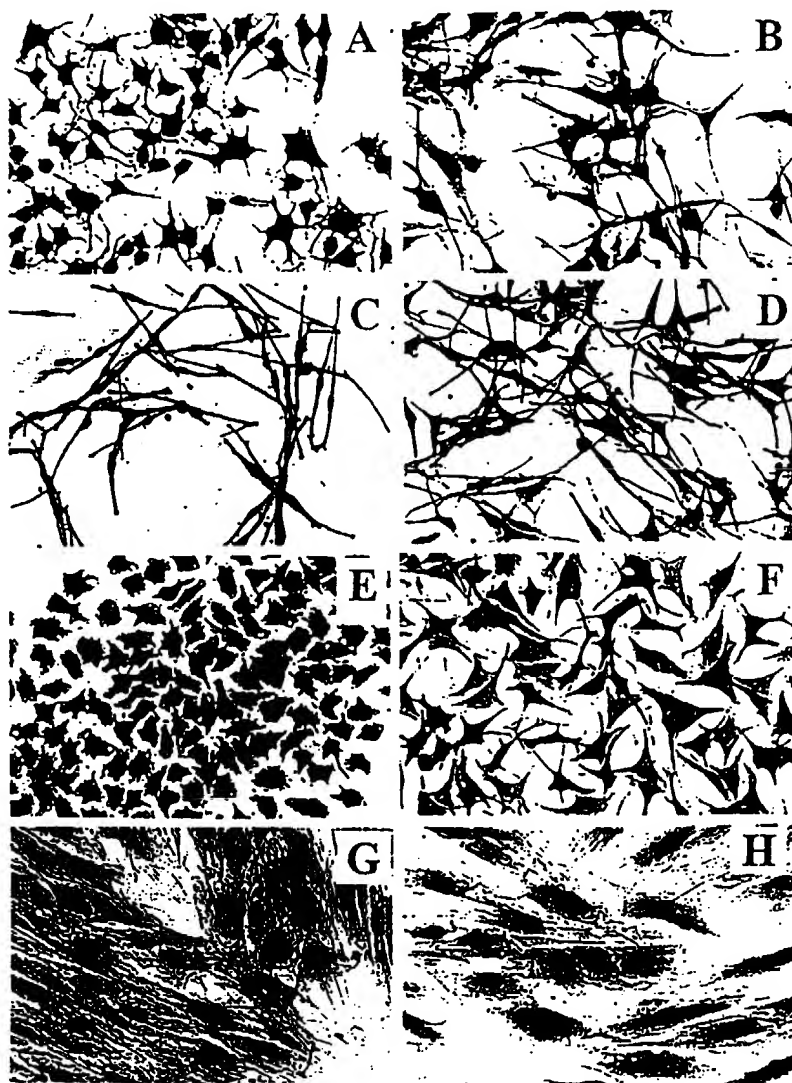


FIGURE 1A  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)



2/21

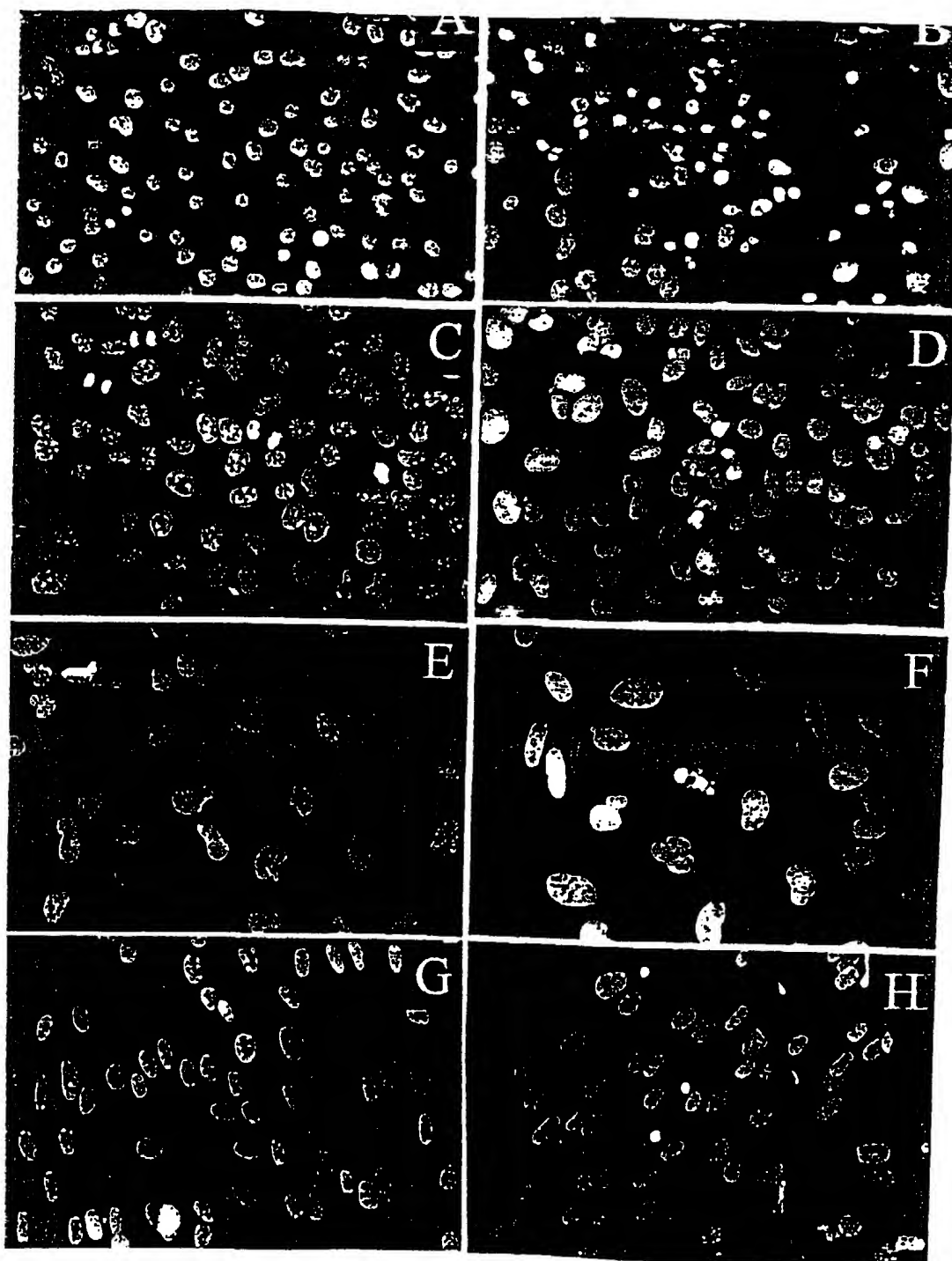


FIGURE 1B  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

3/21

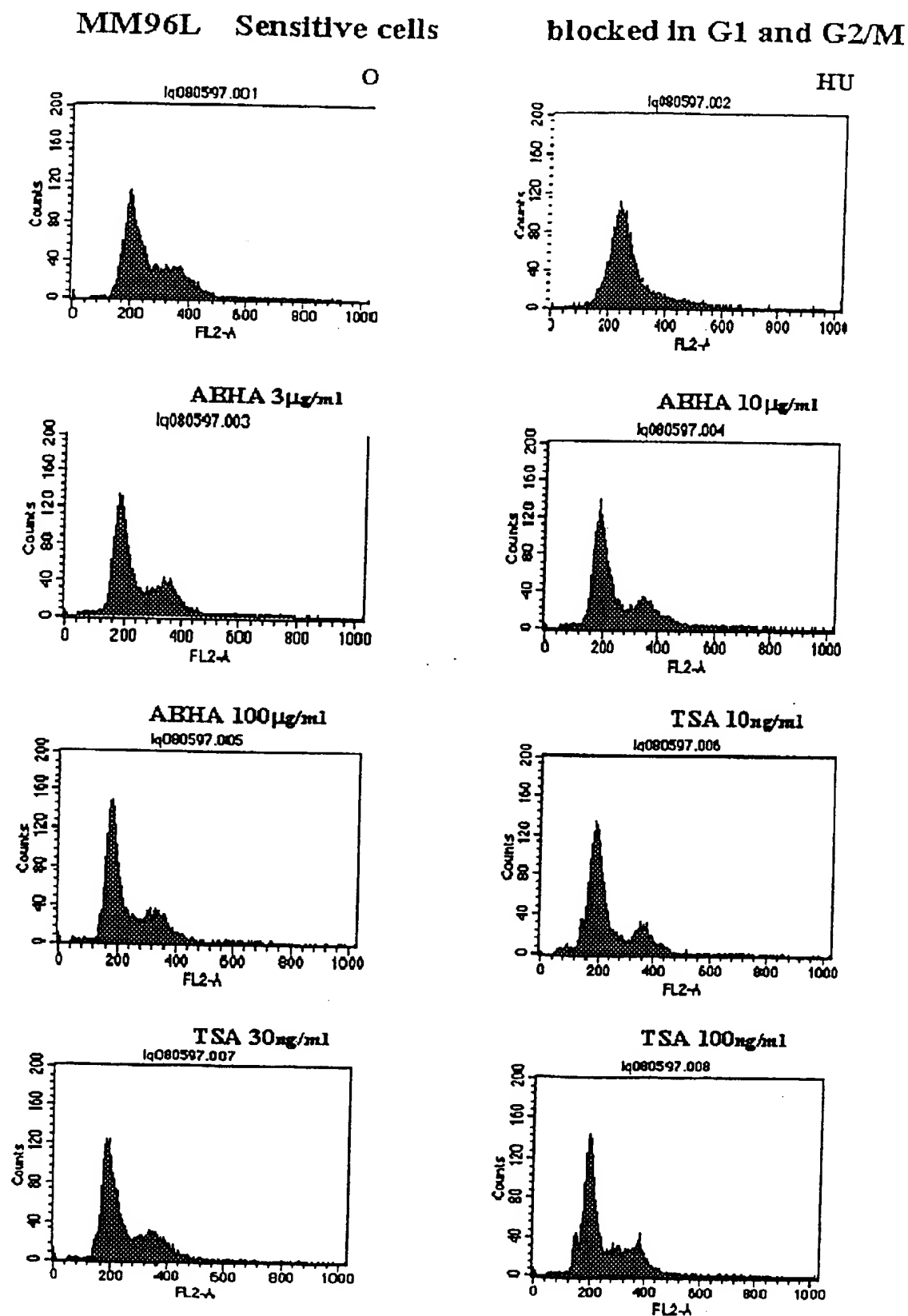


FIGURE 2  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

4/21

HELA Sensitive cells

blocked in G1 and G2

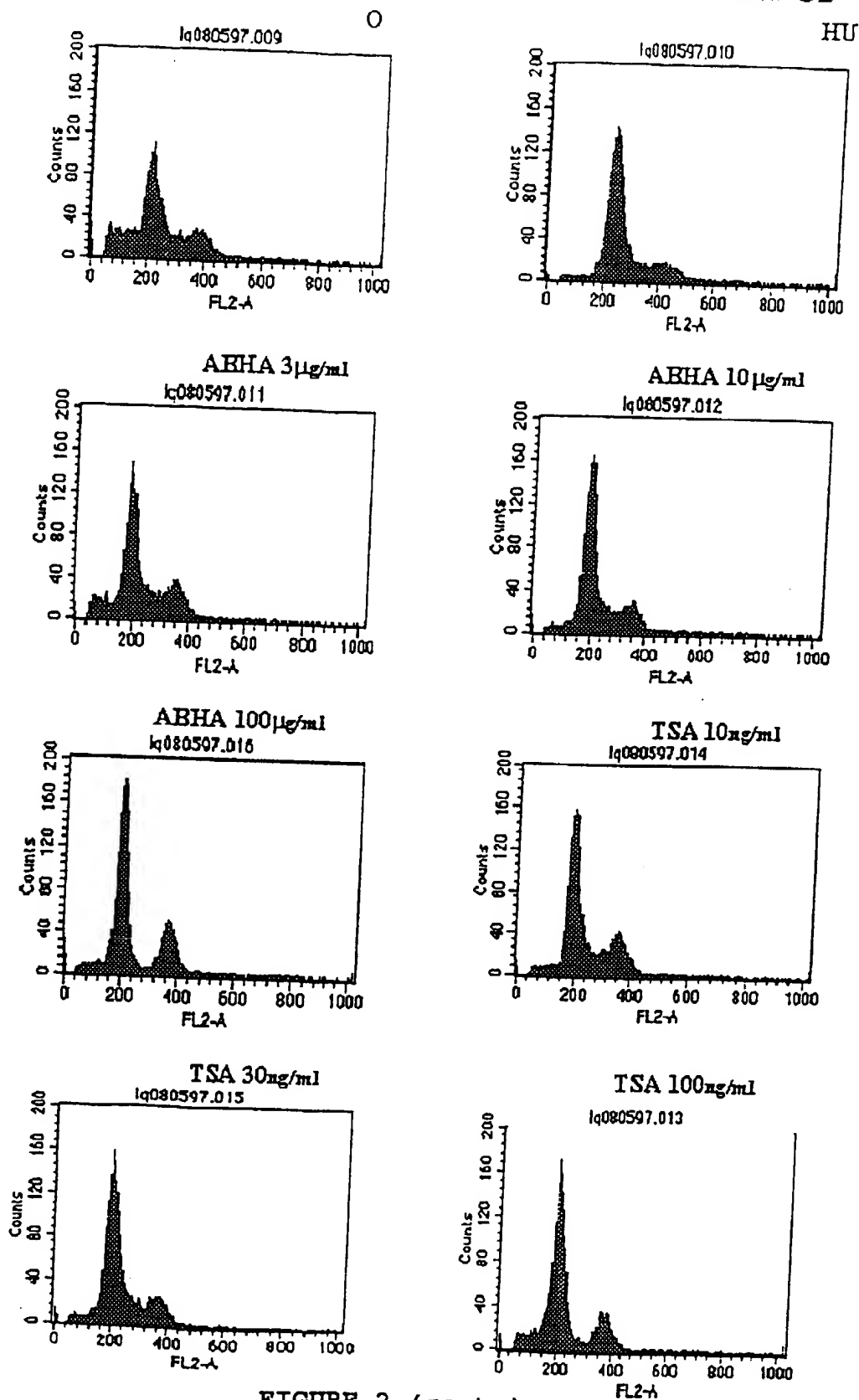


FIGURE 2 (cont.)

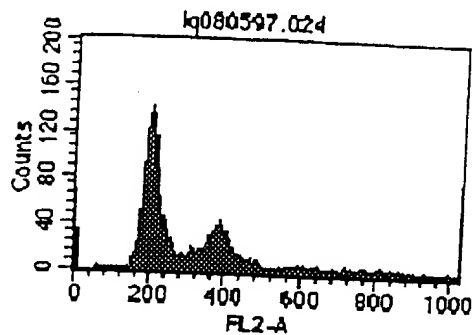
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

5/21

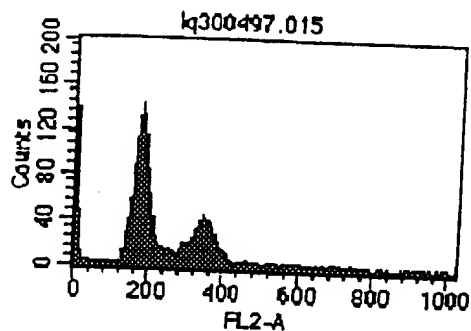
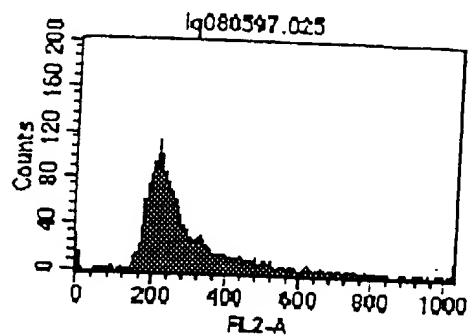
NFF Resistant cells blocked in G2/M

O

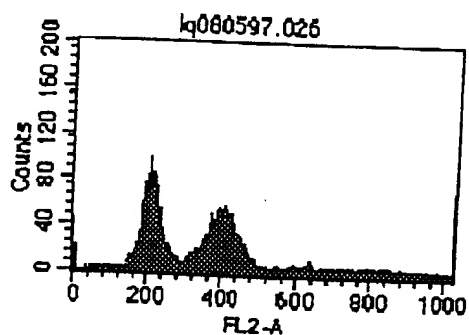
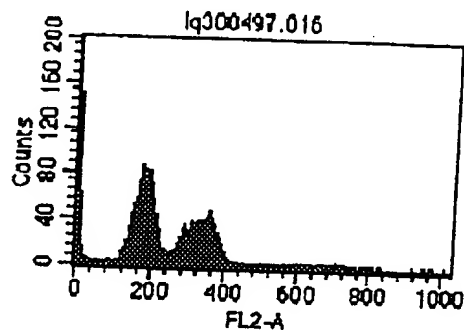
HU



ABHA 10 µg/ml



ABHA 300 µg/ml



TSA 100 ng/ml

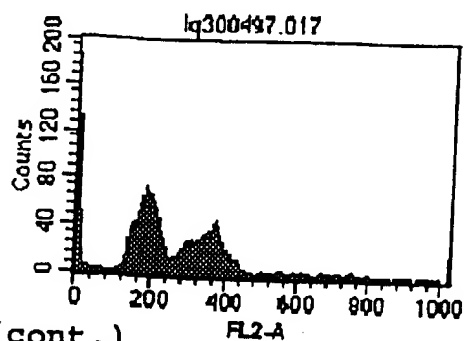
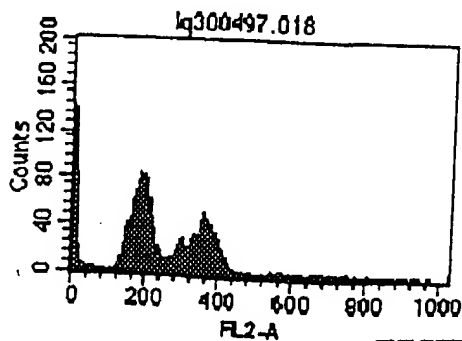
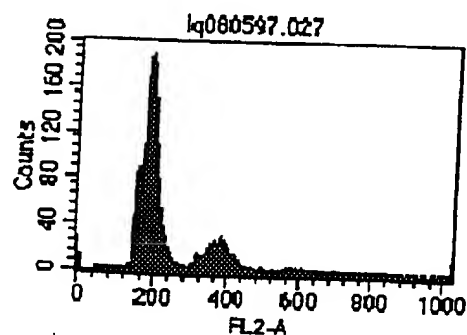


FIGURE 2 (cont.)  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

6/21

MM229 Resistant cells

blocked in G2/M

O

HU

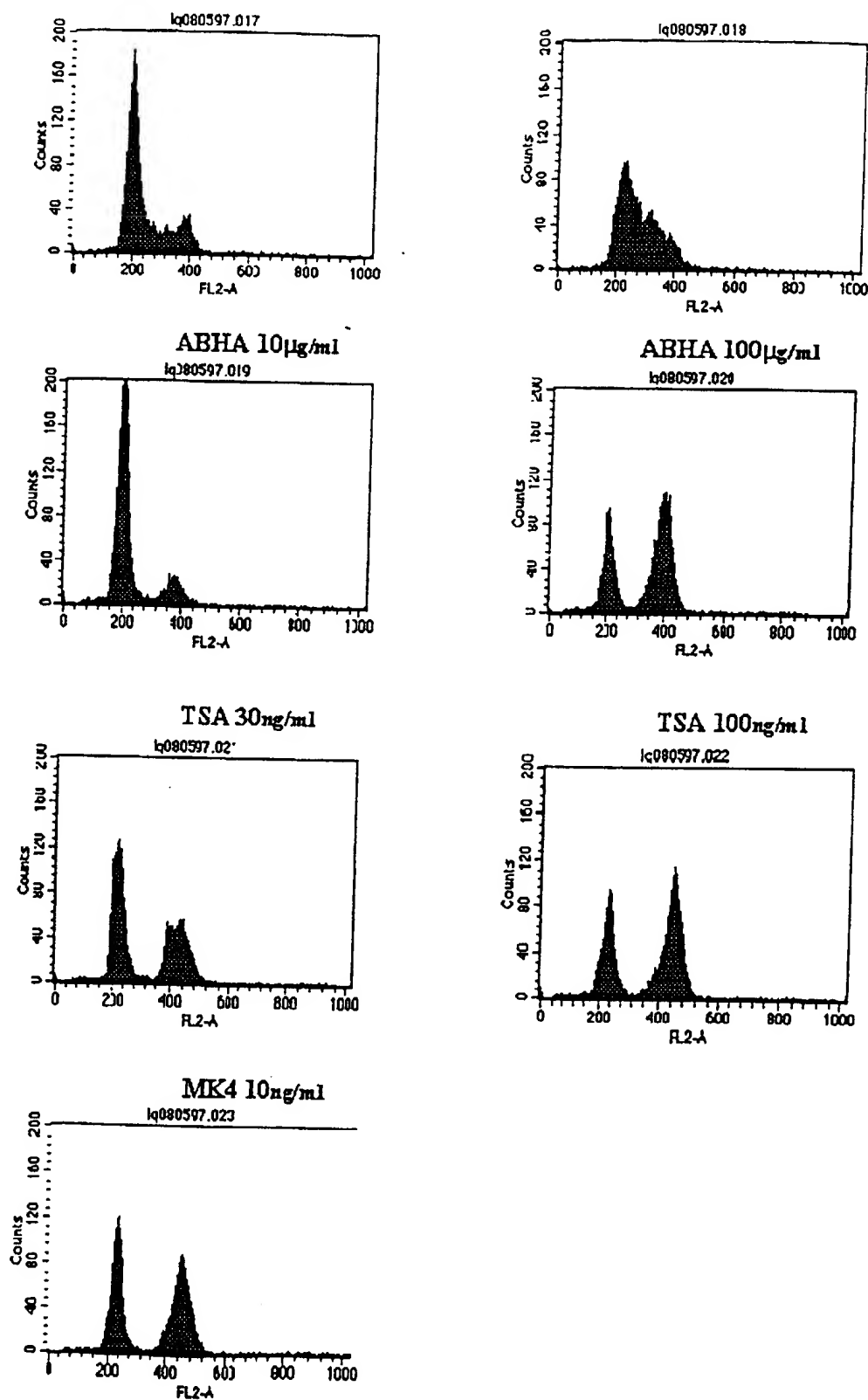
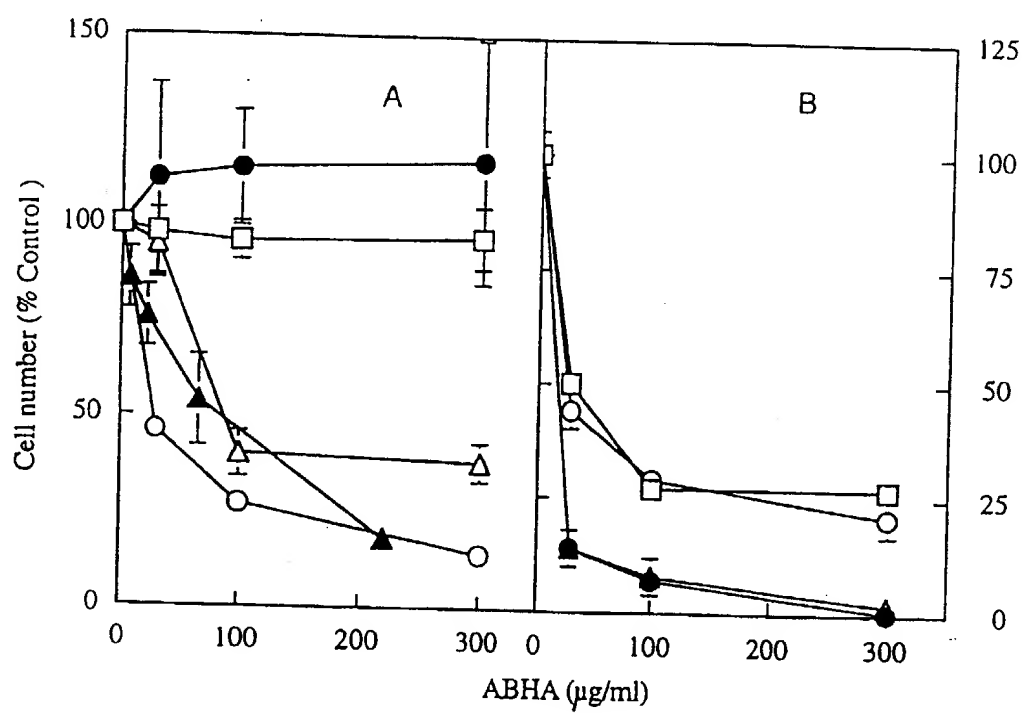


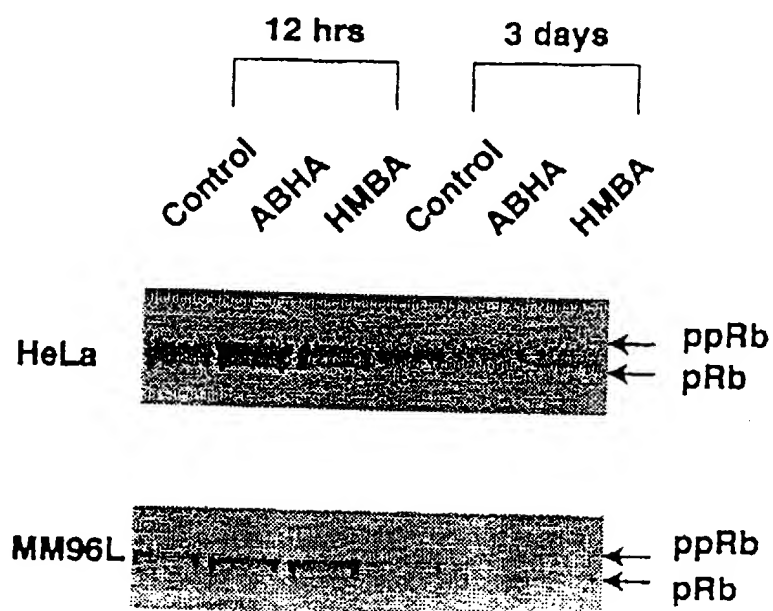
FIGURE 2 (cont.)  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

7/21



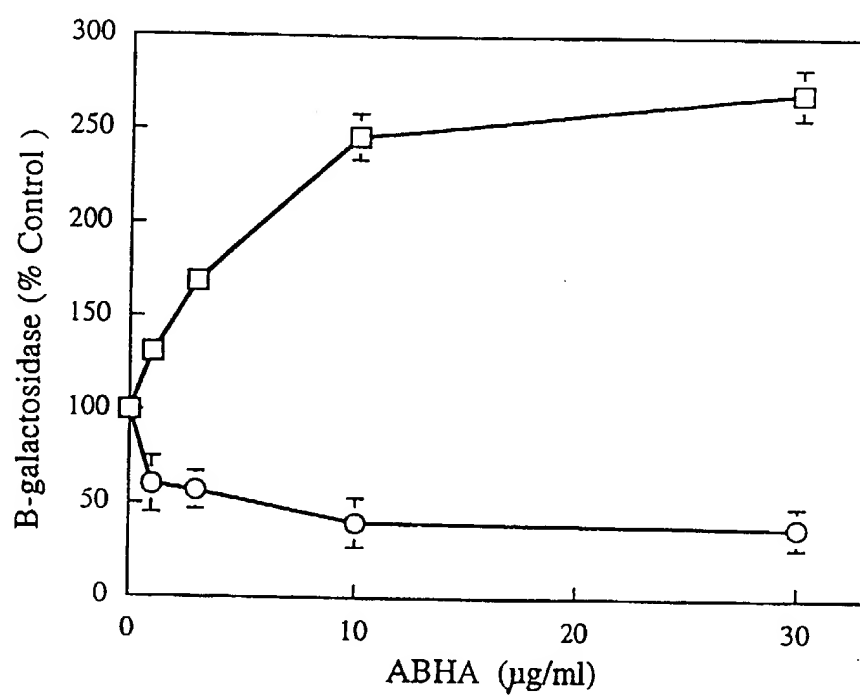
**FIGURE 3**  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

8/21



**FIGURE 4**  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

9/21

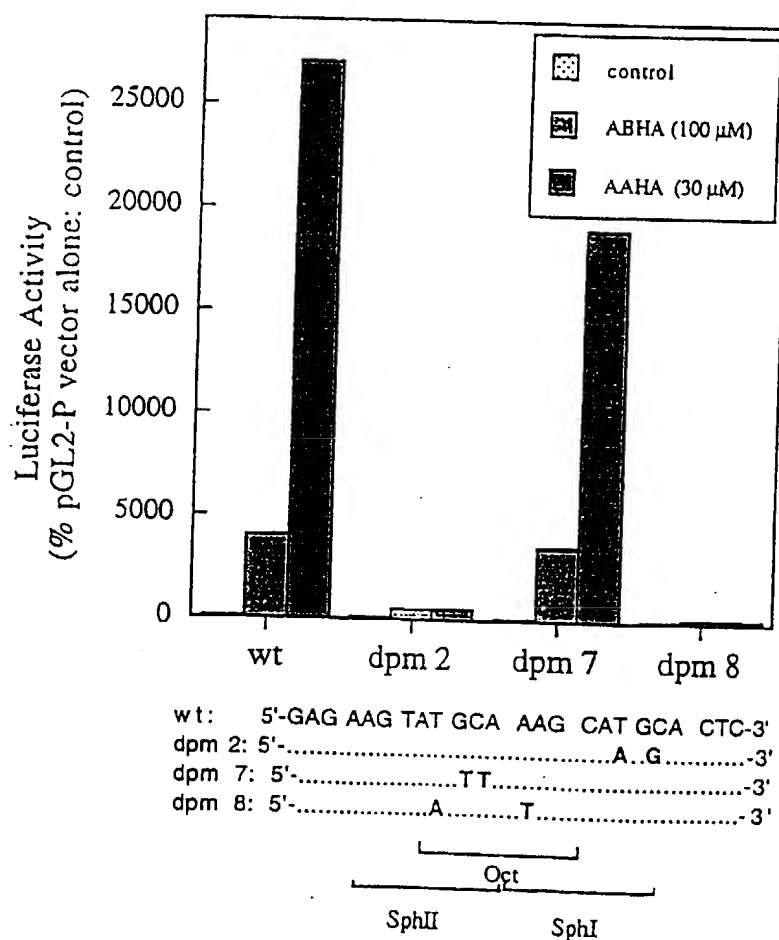


**FIGURE 5A**  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)



10/21

The SphI motif is required for  
drug-activated transcription



**FIGURE 5B**  
 SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

11/21

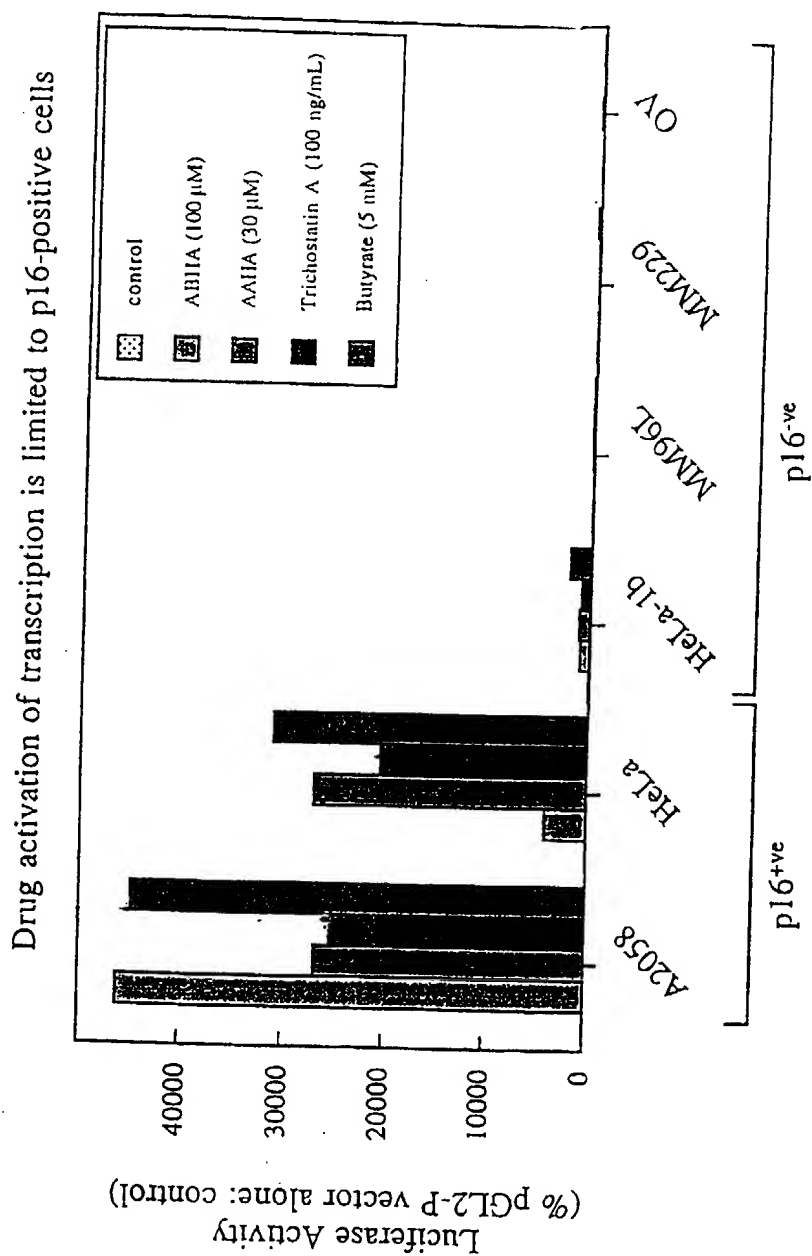


FIGURE 5C  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

12/21

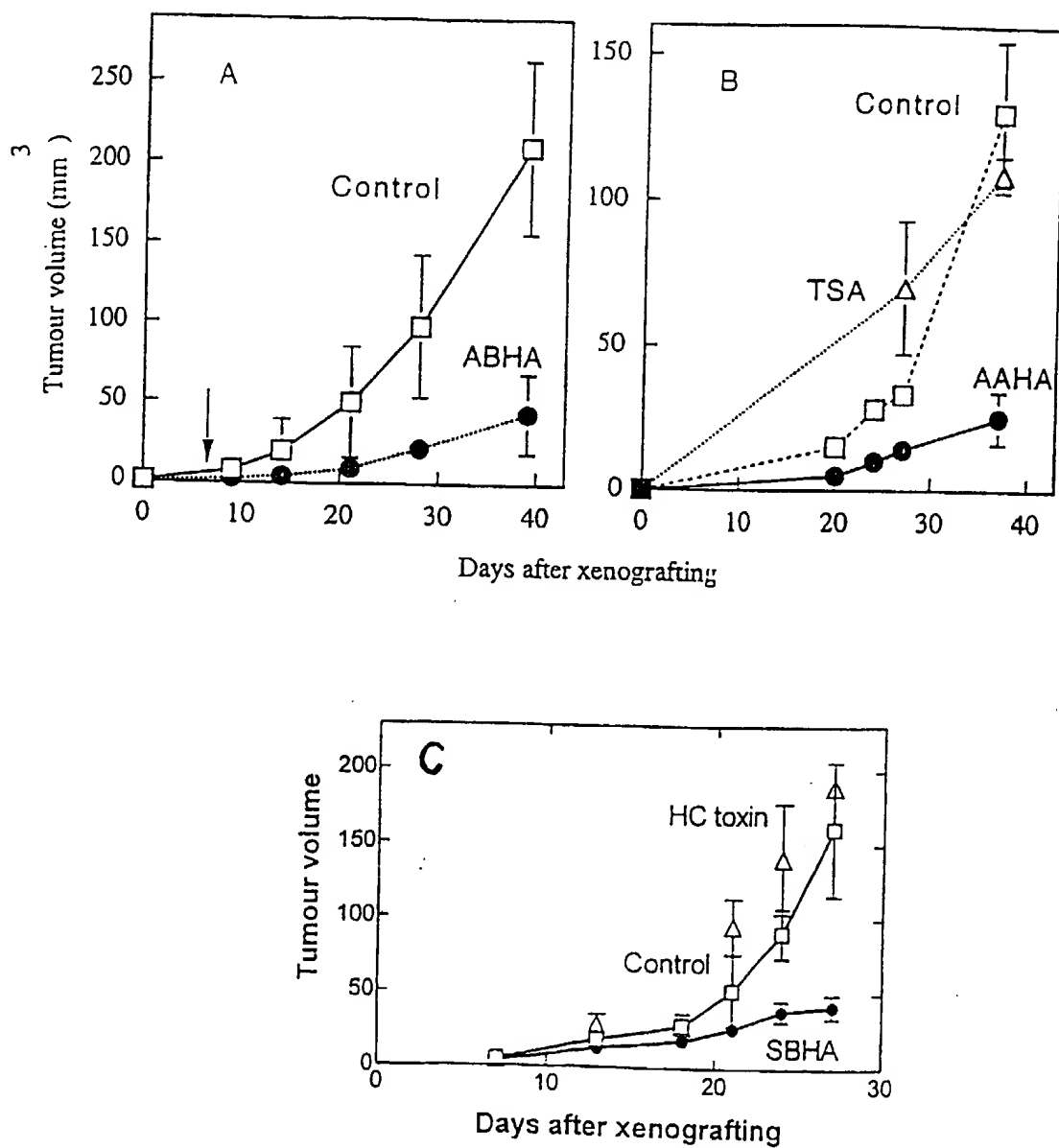
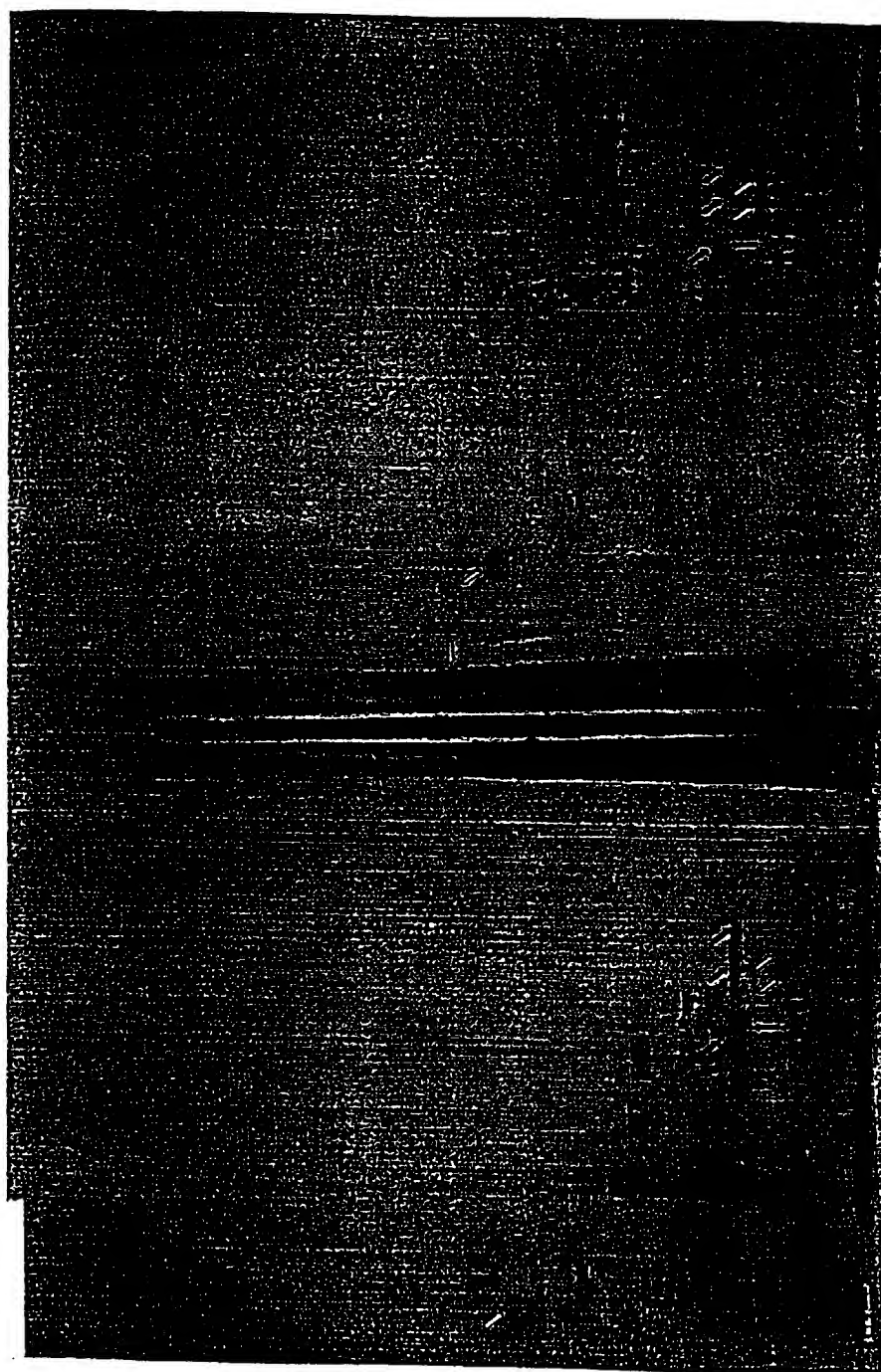


FIGURE 6  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

13/21



MM96L cytosolic lysate untreated control      cytosolic lysate from MM96 cell treated with 100 $\mu$ g/ml ABHA

14/21

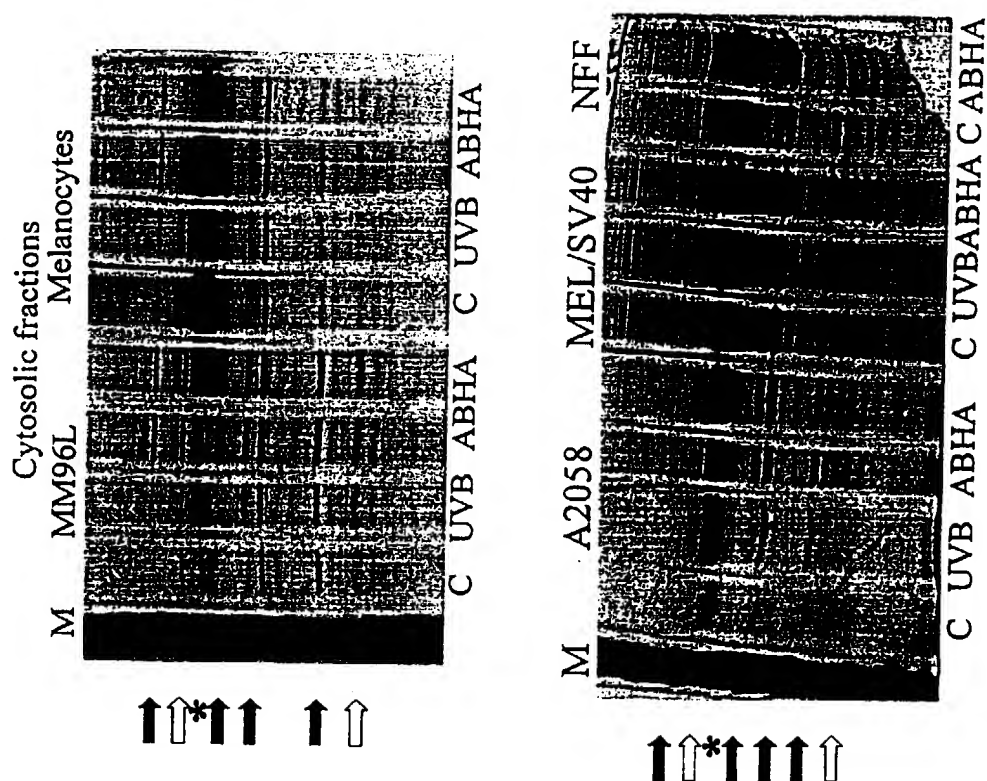
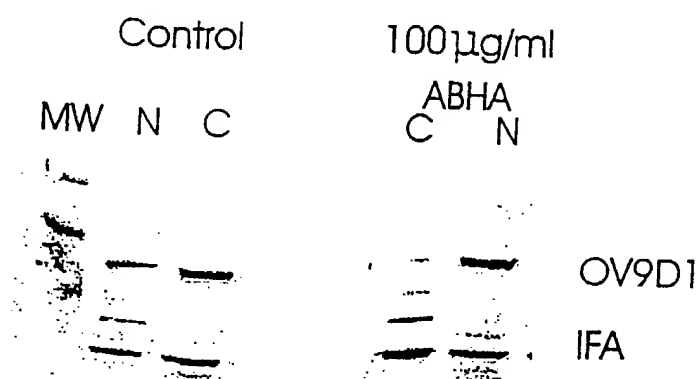


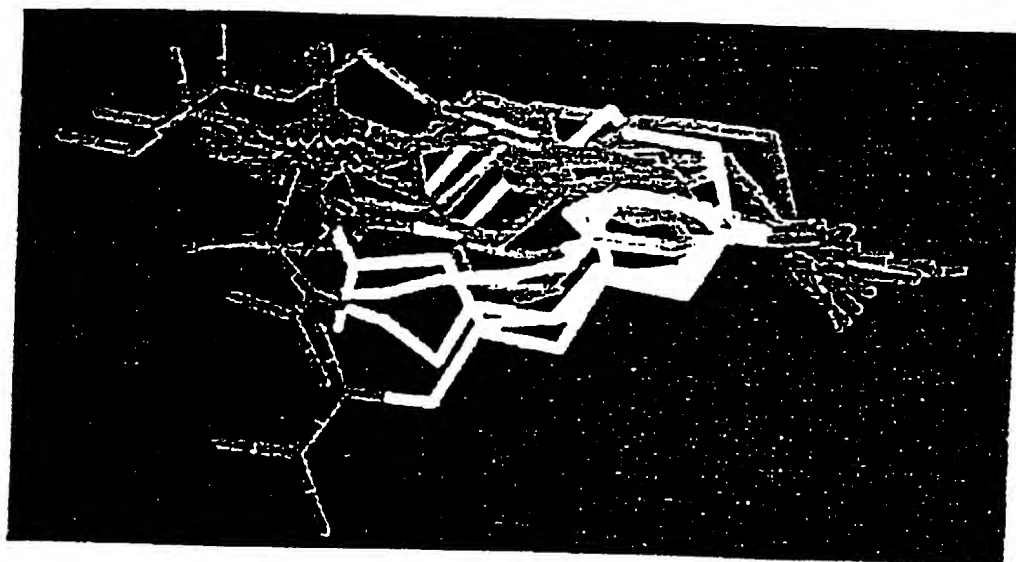
FIGURE 7B  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

15/21

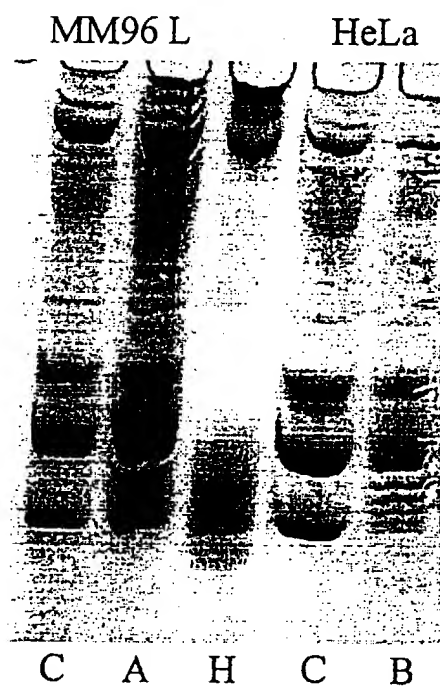


**FIGURE 7C**  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

16/21



17/21



**FIGURE 9A**  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)



18/21

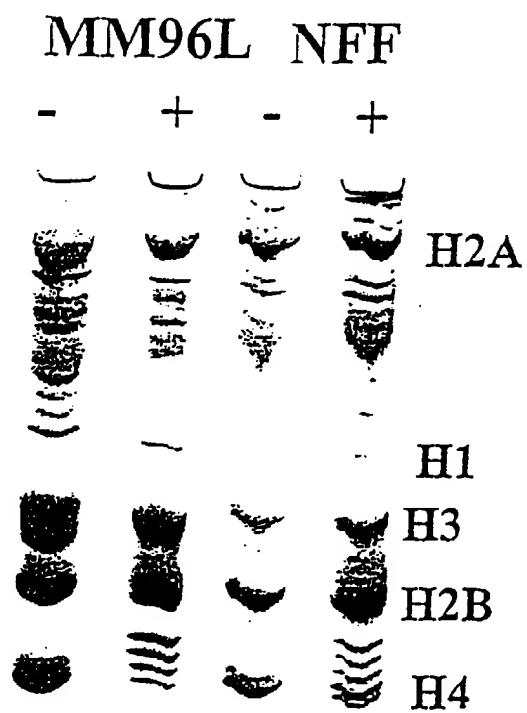


FIGURE 9B  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

19/21

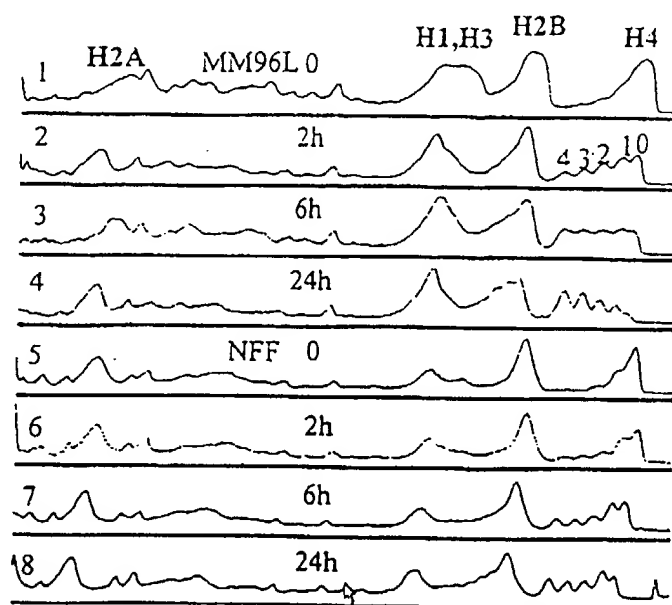


FIGURE 9C

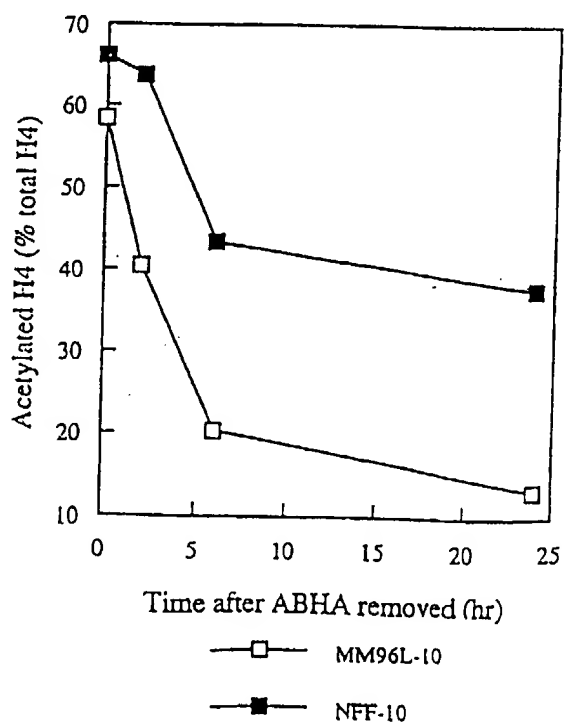
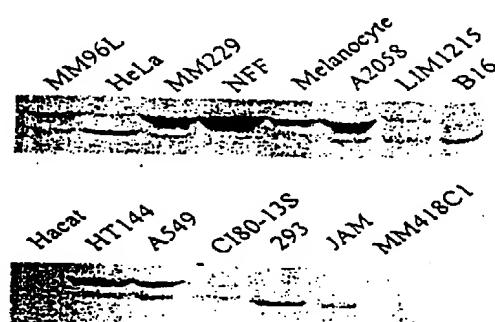


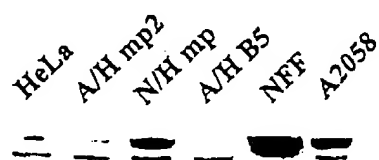
FIGURE 9D  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

20/21

A



B



**FIGURE 10**  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

21/21

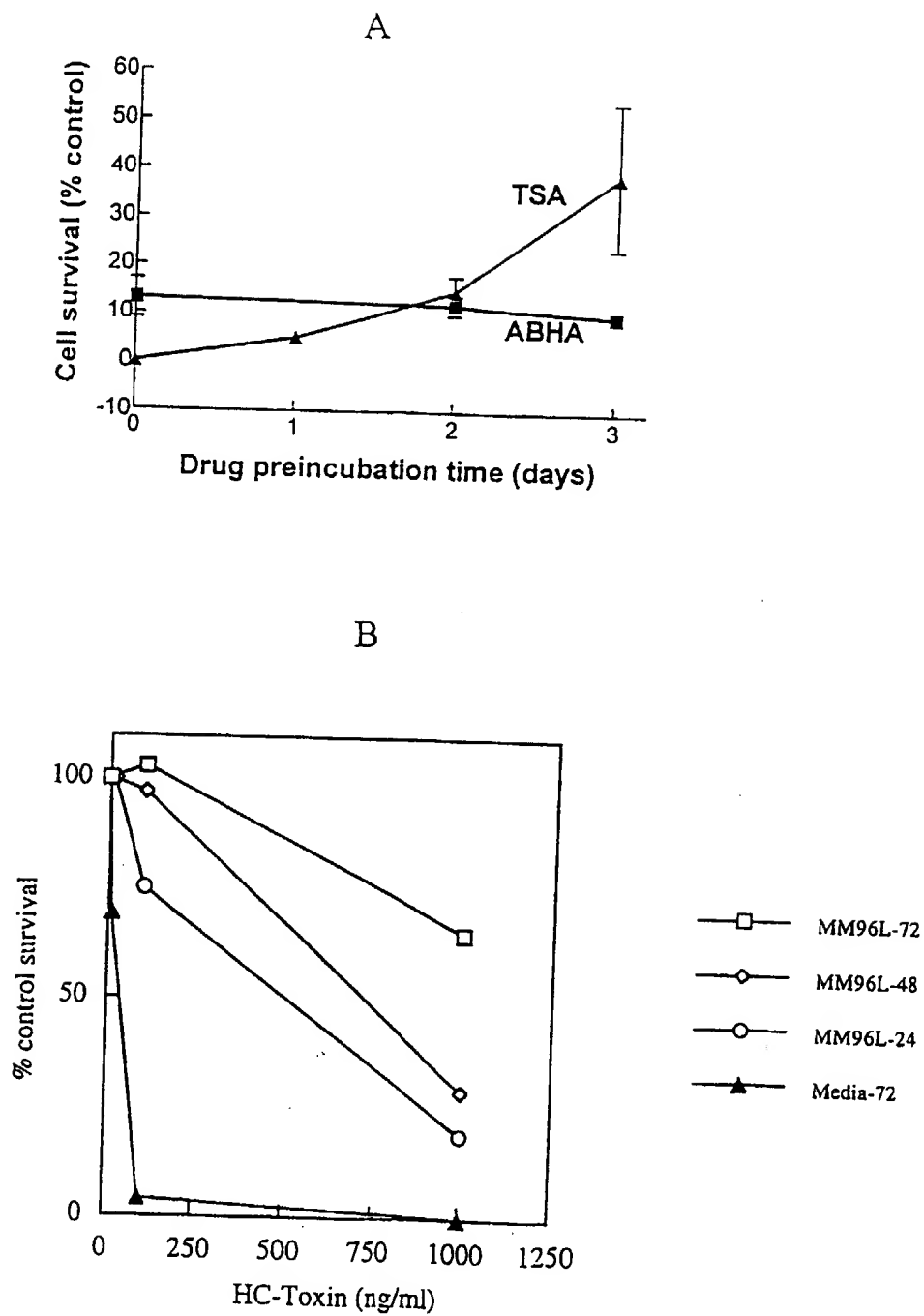


FIGURE 11  
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (Rule 26)

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.  
PCT/AU 98/00431

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int Cl<sup>7</sup>: C07C 259/04, 259/06, 259/08, 259/10; C07K 5/04; C07D 209/44, 209/48, 217/22, 217/24, 217/14, 217/16; A61K 38/06, 38/05, 38/12, 31/16, 31/165, 31/38.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

STN: CHEM ABS. KEYWORDS: HYDROXAMIC (W) ACID, CANCER OR TUMOUR OR PARASIT? ALSO MOLECULAR FORMULA SEARCH

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98/05635 (CHIROSCIENCE LIMITED) 12 February 1998 (see whole document, see in particular pages 2 and 71)	1.2.7-9
X	WO 98/07697 (PFLIZER INC) 26 February 1998 (see whole document in particular page 1)	1.2.8.9
X	WO 97/43249 (SMITHKLINE BEECHAM PLC) 20 November 1997 (see in particular the examples)	10.25
X	WO 97/24117 (RHONE-POULENC RORER PHARMACEUTICALS INC) 10 July 1997 (see whole document)	1.2.7-9

☒ Further documents are listed in the  
continuation of Box C

☒ See patent family annex

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date  
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)  
"(O)" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means  
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  
"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone  
"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art  
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
21 July 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report  
30 JUL 1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU  
AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE  
PO BOX 200  
WODEN ACT 2606  
AUSTRALIA  
Facsimile No.: (02) 6285 3929

Authorized officer

K LEVER

Telephone No.: (02) 6283 2254

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/AU 98/00431

C (Continuation)

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 97/42168 (ZENECA LIMITED) 13 November 1997 (see compound examples and general compound disclosure)	10.25
X	WO 97/43250 (SMITHKLINE BEECHAM PLC) 20 November 1997 (see compound disclosure pages 3,4)	10.25
X	WO 93/21942 (BRITISH BIO-TECHNOLOGY LIMITED) 11 November 1993 (see whole document)	1.2.7-11.23.24.32.43.44
X	WO 95/19961 (BRITISH BIO-TECHNOLOGY LIMITED) 27 July 1995 (see whole document)	1.2.5.7-11.23-26
X	WO 96/20918 (THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY) 11 July 1996 (see in particular pages 2-3)	1.2.5.7.8.9.14.22-26
X	WO 96/40101 (CIBA-GEIGY AG) 19 December 1996 (see pages 19-20, 27-28)	1.2.7-9
X	WO 94/10990 (BRITISH TECHNOLOGY LIMITED) 26 May 1994 (see whole document)	1.2.10
X	WO 93/07148 (SLOAN-KETTERING INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH) 15 April 1993 (see whole document)	1.2.7-10.23-26
X	WO 95/31977 (SLOAN-KETTERING INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH) 30 November 1995 (see whole document)	1.2.4-10.23-26
X	US 4 690 918 (BEPPU et al.) 1 September 1987 (see whole document)	1.2.4-10.23-26.38
X	JP ABSTRACT NO. 59-46244 (NISSAN KAGAKU KOGYO K.K.) 15 March 1984	10.27-30.39-42
X	JP ABSTRACT NO. 07196598 (KURARAY CO LTD) 1 August 1995	10.43
X	WO 97/15553 (SANKYO COMPANY, LIMITED) 1 May 1997 (see abstract)	1.2.10.23-26
X	US 4 448 730 (BARTHOLOMEUS van't RIET et al.) 15 May 1984 (see in particular, column 1, lines 15-19; column 9 lines 35-45)	1.2.7.8
X	WO 93/12075 (SHIONOGI & CO LTD) 24 June 1993 (see abstract; also Derwent abstract 93-214037/26)	10.22
X	WO 97/31892 (SANKYO COMPANY, LIMITED) 4 September 1997 see abstract	10

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE  
SEARCH REPORT

Application No.  
AU 98/00431

C (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	International Congress of Chemotherapy, 6th, Tokyo 1969. Progress in antimicrobial and anticancer chemotherapy: proceedings 1970 "Antitumor activity of L-beta-aspartohydroxamic acid in vivo" Miura et al., pages 170-174	1.2.7.8.9
X	The Prostate, Volume 34(2), 1998, "Cyclic Hydroxamic Acid Inhibitors of Prostate Cancer Cell Growth: Selectivity and Structure Activity Relationships", Roberts et al., pages 92-99	1.2.7-9
X	Neoplasma, Volume 44(3), 1997, "Chloroaceto hydroxamic acid as an antitumour agent against Ehrlich ascites", Sur et al., pages 197-201	1.2
X	Indian Journal of Pharmacology, 1997, Volume 29, "Antineoplastic activity of copper-benzo-hydroxamic acid complex against Ehrlich Ascites Carcinoma (EAC) in mice", Khanam et al., pages 157-161	1.2
X	Anticancer Drugs, Volume 3, 1992, "The antineoplastic and cytotoxicity of benzohydroxamic acids and related derivatives in murine and human tumour cells", Hall et al., pages 273-280	1.2.7-9
X	J. Med. Chem., 1995, Volume 38, "Isolation and Characterization of a Cyclic Hydroxamic Acid from a Pollen Extract, which Inhibits Cancerous Cell Growth in Vitro", Zhang et al., pages 735-738	1.2.7-9
X	Acta cientifica venezolana, Volume 32(5), 1981, "Antitrypanosomal and antimycotic effect of various Hydroxamic Acids", Tabernerero et al., pages 411-416	10.27.28.39.40.42
X	Biochemical Pharmacology, Volume 53, 1997, "Tumor Selectivity and Transcriptional Activation by Azelaic Bishydroxamic Acid in Human Melanocytic Cells", Parsons et al., pages 1719-1724	1.2.7.8.9
X	Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Volume 84, No: 4, April 1995 "An in vivo model for Screening Peptidomimetic Inhibitors of Gelatinase A", Chander et al., pages 404-409	10
X	Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., Volume 93, June 1996, "Second generation hybrid polar compounds are potent inducers of transformed cell differentiation", Richon et al., pages 5705-5708	1.2.10
X	Journal of Medical Chemistry, Volume 41(8), 1998, "Inhibition of Membrane-Type 1 Matrix Metallo proteinase by Hydroxamate Inhibitors: An examination of the Subsite pocket", Yamamoto et al., pages 1209-1217 (see table 1)	1.2.10

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/AU 98/00431

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 21, 33-37 in full and 1-9, 11-20, 22-26, 31, 32, 38-44 in part  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:  
The claims are broad and speculative: much of what is claimed is not supported by the description (in particular claims 33, 34, 35, 36, 37). The claims are poorly drafted and as a result are unclear. Consequently it is impossible to determine the exact scope of the claims, for example.  
Continued on extra sheet
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims: it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/AU 98/00431

## Box I (continued)

- (i) the meaning of the phrase "a compound structurally related thereto" is not clear (claim 1);
- (ii) the term "acylaic" is not clear (claim 9);
- (iii) some compounds of claim 15 do not fall within the scope of claim 10 to which they are appended;
- (iv) the meaning of claim 21 is not clear, the compounds listed do not fall within the scope of claim 10 to which it is appended. The compounds are also well known;
- (v) claim 27 is not clear because of the phrase "related compound as defined herein";
- (vi) substituents are not defined within claims (claims 19 and 20);
- (vii) compounds of claim 22 do not fall within the scope of claim 10 to which they are appended;
- (viii) incorrectly appended claims (see claims 17, 23, 31 and 32);
- (ix) the patent publication referred to in claim 10 is not related to hydroxamic acids or the current application.

These are some of the reasons that no meaningful search could be carried out on the above claims.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No.  
**PCT/AU 98/00431**

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member			
WO	98/05635	AU	38564/97				
WO	98/07697	AU	34563/97				
WO	97/43249	AU	28973/97				
WO	97/24117	AU	15298/97				
WO	97/42168	AU	26454/97				
WO	97/43250	NONE					
WO	93/21942	AU	42672/93	EP	639982	ZA	93/03089
WO	95/19961	AU	14603/95	AU	16540/97	CA	2181709
		EP	740655	FI	962905	GB	2315750
		HU	74511	NO	963031		
WO	96/20918	AU	44220/96	BR	9510175	CA	2208679
		EP	800510	NO	973035	US	5639746
WO	96/40101	AU	61249/96	US	5646167	AU	52655/93
		CA	2112779	EP	606046	FI	940012
		HU	70536	JP	6256293	MX	9400276
		NO	940038	NZ	250517	SG	42933
		US	5455258	ZA	9400048	US	5506242
		US	5552419	US	5672615	AU	25369/95
		CA	2192092	EP	766672	FI	965156
		NO	965568				

### Information on patent family members

**PCT/AU 98/00431**

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member			
WO	94/10990	AU	54301/94	EP	667770	US	5691382
WO	93/07148	AU	28703/92	AU	62063/96	EP	642509
		FI	941537	HU	67421	NO	941166
		US	5369108	US	5700811	AU	26474/95
		CA	2190765	EP	760657	WO	95/31977
WO	95/31977	NONE					
JP	07-196598	NONE					
WO	97/15553	NONE					
US	4448730	US	4263322	US	4394389		
WO	93/12075	EP	570594	US	5534654		
WO	97/31892	AU	18121/97	JP	9291072		